

the Magazine for the Christian Home

Hearthstone

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- **The Anatomy of Family Life—Dr. A. J. Cronin**
- **“Like a Father”—Eugene F. Gerlitz**

JANUARY, 1961—25c

The Magazine for the Christian Home Hearthstone

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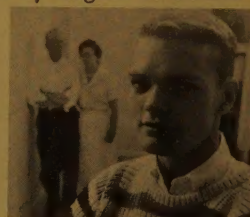
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What Is Family Life? "The Anatomy of Family Life" by Dr. A. J. Cronin, who is possibly remembered more as a doctor, discusses economic worries, sickness, divorces, and arguments as parts of the anatomy of family life. He decries the fact that "people enter into the wedded state too lightly, too rashly, and with a false conception of its real meaning and purpose." You will want to read his views on what marriage partnership means.

Family and Christian Faith. Faith is nurtured in family experience. In fact, the major teachings of our faith can be said to come out of the family experience. For example, we look to the family first for meaning of the term "Father" when applied to God. Beginning with this issue, *Hearthstone* will present a series of articles showing the relationship of family living to the basic teachings of the Christian faith. The first article is "Like a Father" and is written by Eugene F. Gerlitz.



Teen-agers Have Answers. Eileen M. Hasse in "Parents and Teen-agers, Growing" tries to capture the teen-agers' point of view regarding some of the questions parents raise such as: "Why don't young people act like part of the family?" "Why don't the kids help around home?" "Why are young people gone all the time?" "Why don't they study more?" and "Why is it so difficult to raise kids these days?"

Our Pastor's Pastor. To aid parents in understanding the pastor's role and their role as minister to the minister, *Hearthstone* presents Alpha Mell Stuart's article "Two-way Road to the Parsonage," beginning on page 20. From time to time church members need to look at the role of the pastor and at what can be expected of him. Because most of us are on the "other side of the coin," we may seldom look at our responsibility of ministering to the family in the parsonage.

About the Cover. What is more beautiful than the ground covered with new fallen snow, so crystal and soft! It beckons the family to take delight in its depth—and, oops, in its mild softness!

Coming Soon. "Homework for Parents of Teeners" by R. B. Hannen; "It's Fun Preparing to Retire" by A. B. Kennerly; "The Strength of Love" by Mary Peacock; and others.

Until then,
R. C.

A well-known doctor-author
discusses marriage

The **Anatomy** *of* **Family** **Life**

by Dr. A. J. Cronin



—Harold M. Lambert

It is time to think about the family. With half a million marriages legally broken, finished, every twelve months, some serious study and action is needed.

SOME YEARS AGO, newspapers told of the chance discovery of a fine painting by Rubens in the dusty attic of an old English country house. When confronted with this treasure the astonished owner naively exclaimed: "It was always there! But I never knew I had it."

I think his statement is typical of the present-day attitude toward the family. We have long taken it for granted. So now we regard it with indifference, as something not worth thinking about. In this almost cynical unconcern lies the greatest danger to the family.

In the days of the pioneers, when members of the family worked together to extract a livelihood from the land, the family was the essential unit of the community, existing and surviving through its own indispensability. Parents and children alike rose early and set about their appointed tasks, tending the stock, milking the cows, plowing and harrowing the fields, baking, cooking and canning, scrubbing and rinsing through the steamy rigors of the weekly washday. There was a sense of duty in this hard and simple life, and a strong religious feeling too, manifested in the evening gathering for family prayers. Pleasures were infrequent, though nonetheless, enjoyed, and despite the obvious austerities of that life the family had its own rewards and satisfactions. It was closely united, almost indestructible.

Our immense industrial expansion and the rapid growth of cities and urbanization of the countryside have completely changed this picture. There is scant resemblance between today's third-generation family

occupying a cramped apartment on a crowded city block and their ancestors on the farm. The telephone, the automobile, radio, television, the cinema, the lure of great sports events, all these conveniences, pleasures, and excitements offer advantages our forebears missed. They also have exerted a disruptive influence on the home.

The children do not stay at home nights. Business keeps Father late at the office. Mother, who has lately taken to music, slips out to a concert with a woman friend. On a Sunday evening, instead of that reverent and restful gathering around the family board, Mother and Dad (he played eighteen holes of golf earlier in the day) are out for cocktails, Junior isn't back from the ball game and Sister has a date with that nice boy who just came down from college but hasn't got a job yet. In short, the common purpose and common needs that held the family group together no longer exist. The family is tending to fall apart.

One evidence in America is the divorce rate—half a million marriages legally broken, finished, every twelve months. When one considers the heartaches, the bewildered, disillusioned children, the bitter rancors and resentments, the chaotic mess that so often results, the figure is calamitous. How under high heaven do these tragedies ever happen?

The main cause is that people enter into the wedded state too lightly, too rashly and with a false conception of its real meaning and purpose. We hear of young men who propose after a few days of acquaintance; of others who meet a girl in the afternoon, take her to dinner, then a few hours later, perhaps in a night club, urge her to drive with them

Author of *Keys to the Kingdom*, Dr. Cronin's more recent book is *The Northern Light*.

to the nearest preacher. More incredible still, we hear of others who, after looking at a pin-up photograph, beseech a woman they have never met to share their life. Recently I read that a glamorous model whose picture appeared on the cover of a national magazine received within the week more than six hundred letters containing definite proposals of marriage.

Unfortunately, however, this idea of sex appeal as the primary basis for matrimony, crooned incessantly over the air waves, steeped in a sickly romanticism, sugared with the false promise of an eternal honeymoon, has become part of the American dream. Physical attraction has its place in marriage—in the most successful partnerships I have known this attraction has lasted for twenty, thirty, even forty years. There are other infinitely more important qualities than ruby lips, sparkling eyes, or the much-advertised allure of a peaches-and-cream complexion. The rocky road of life demands stronger apparel than a sheer silk negligee.

The Vicar of Wakefield, in Goldsmith's novel, came very close to the point. He chose his wife, as she chose her wedding gown, for *qualities that would wear well*. Not, mark you, because she was "some dish!" In my native Scotland, so often the target for humorous criticism, courtship is a serious affair. A couple will "walk out" together for several years, getting to know each other in steady companionship, discussing the future, saving their money, making practical arrangements for their life together, so that when, after this period of probation, they finally settle down, they do so on a solid foundation of understanding and respect, threatened by none of those dangers that so often blight the beginnings of matrimony.

Certainly the early months of any marriage are crucial. The excitement of the wedding ceremony is over, the raptures of the honeymoon have diminished and not infrequently the newlyweds come down to earth with a heavy and unexpected jolt. They are not quite used to living together and they do not yet have the maturity or experience to adapt themselves to a routine that appears, all at once, to bristle with the stubborn facts of life—problems of finance and household management, doubts and difficulties about sex, relatives, religion, even irritations in respect to each other's personal habits. They believed that all they had to do to gain perpetual bliss was to marry. Both built up a glittering edifice of expectations. And now what? Nothing but a pile of greasy dishes in the kitchen sink, an unmade bed, the slam of the front door as hubby snatches a perfunctory kiss in a rush to get to work on time. At such a moment life suddenly seems sour, stale, humdrum. Right then the insidious thought may be born in the subconscious of each partner: Was I wise to take this fateful step? Wouldn't I have been better off if I had kept my freedom?

While practicing medicine in a small, north country town I came across just such a couple. They had been married only a year but now, disillusioned

by the drabness of their environment, the limitations imposed on their personal ambitions and the frequent clashes of their temperaments, they had decided that they should separate. He was an architect, a clever young fellow who wanted to abandon his job planning suburban dwellings and go to Rome to further his studies. He wanted to build a great cathedral. She, a college graduate with a passion for art, was not one whit behind in her fierce determination to abandon the hated cooking, washing, and ironing in favor of a fuller and freer artist's life in Paris. Each separately confided these plans to me with a bitter intensity rendered more pathetic by the fact that they really loved each other. Who knows what folly they might have committed? But then nature took a hand and, as their physician, I was able to inform them that they would shortly have a child. This wholly unsuspected contingency brought them up short, caused them to realize their responsibilities and, as each had a great deal of stability and good sense, made them determine on a fresh start. They now have four children and, while he has not built his Italian cathedral and she has not won her place of honor in the Louvre, they have safely weathered their early troubles, prospered financially, and succeeded in making their family life thoroughly happy.

Children cannot save a basically unstable marriage, but the coming of a child brings a sense of achievement and fulfillment to normal young parents. It binds them more closely, creates fresh interests and delights as they watch and guide the baby from infancy to maturity. It gives them an opportunity to develop an individual who will be a credit to society and themselves. Make no mistake—children are not entirely angelic creatures "trailing clouds of glory" from above, ready to cure all parental woes, to straighten out all family conflicts. More often than not the arrival of a baby upsets the household arrangements by night as well as by day, disturbs the balance between husband and wife, creates new hazards, problems, and anxieties. Yet the baby is worth all this, a hundred times over.

At my university we had a Highland professor of medicine who used to give his class this valedictory advice: "Go out and get married, lads. Have children. Raise them fine, strong, and healthy. And bring them up to be a credit to you." He was a wise old man versed in the snares and pitfalls of the world, and he practiced what he preached. He had a son who later became one of Europe's foremost surgeons.

Such an attitude of mind demands that we take marriage and the family seriously. We have to work hard for the joys and satisfactions that come from family life. We must learn to make adjustments, to meet trials and hardships not easy to bear, develop understanding and self-control, practice the silent virtues of patience and self-sacrifice. How often, in my medical years, was I brought face to face with acts of courage and devotion, unheralded and unsung, which nevertheless spoke volumes for the strength and richness, the finely knit texture of family ties. I have

known a wife who suffered for months, without a murmur, having a painful and dangerous malady but refusing to tell her husband lest it upset him during some protracted business negotiations vital to his future. How vividly do I recollect a young man who called to engage me for his wife's confinement—their first child. When he nervously opened his wallet in my consulting-room two cardboard slips fell, quite by accident, on my desk. I picked them up. They were pawn tickets. Confusedly, he explained that lately he had been working only half time and had pledged his watch to pay a deposit on my fee. I told him at once that this was unnecessary, that he could pay me when his circumstances improved. Then, curious, I asked: "And the other ticket?" He turned redder than ever, finally made his halting admission. Tomorrow was his wife's birthday. He simply couldn't let it pass. He had pawned his war medals to buy her a present, a silver brooch.

The home is built on such instances of thoughtfulness and high regard for others. It is no place for the selfish, self-indulgent man or woman. Marriage is no joy ride. Those who do not disown their responsibilities, who face up to the hard facts and overcome them, will reap a rich reward in the warmth and intimacy of family life, the happiness of a house that is not merely a place to sleep in, the common interests, sympathies, and pleasures of a united home.

Many people have asked me to name the virtue most necessary to secure such perfect unity. Undoubtedly the answer is loyalty. The worst offense against the marriage state, the rock on which the family happiness is most often shipwrecked, is infidelity.

Adultery is an ugly word and a despicable betrayal of mutual trust, so destructive in its effects, that I need not name them all here. Other disloyalties, while less obvious than adultery, are in their own way just as dangerous. Some years ago I knew a family—mother, father, adolescent son and daughter—in

which, despite affluent circumstances and a generous measure of the good things of life, there ran a constant undercurrent of disharmony. The wife was a virtuous woman. She would have scorned the barest suggestion that she might be even remotely untrue to her husband. Yet all day long her unconscious desire seemed to be to disparage him in the eyes of the children—raising her brows, exchanging an ironic glance with her son or daughter when he made a simple remark, appearing somehow to criticize his opinions, his dress, his appearance.

This disloyalty is equally manifested by wives who discuss their husbands behind their backs; by husbands who mourn to other women how much they are misunderstood; by wives and husbands who fly for sympathy to a friend or relative, bearing sad tales of this and that injustice.

No partnership can survive under such conditions—a house divided against itself will never stand. Such people should bury their bickering in their own back yard, smile, if they can, at each other's failings, try to laugh off the dreadful grievance that, magnified and distorted, makes John seem a monster and Mary a heartless shrew. Of all the aids to family equilibrium, none is more blessedly useful than a sense of humor.

How well do I remember one evening, in the early months of my marriage, coming home to our shabby lodgings in the rough Welsh village where I was trying to build up a medical practice. I was depressed, worried about a bad case, dead tired after a hard day's work, and ravenously hungry. I could have eaten an entire steer. Instead, my young wife produced one boiled egg. By a great effort I controlled myself and broke open the shell. The egg was rotten. At that everything gave way. I started up with all the abuse at my command. My wife, who had wrestled with her own tribulations that day, gave

(Continued on page 28)

Know Your Hymns!

by Louise D. Phillips

Who composed these favorite hymns?

Find his name in his hymns.

Place the correct letter in the blank space. Read downward.

S—eet Hour of Prayer	B
I Th—nk When I	—ead That Sweet Story of Old
He —eadeh Me, O Blessed Thought:	a
L	d
T—s Midnight and on Olive's	—row
Just —s I Am	Witho—t One Plea
—y Hope Is Built	r
B	y

The composer's name is _____

Let me introduce you to him. He was born in York, Maine. Before he was fourteen, he learned to play several musical instruments and at eighteen was an accomplished organist.

He was one of the founders of modern church and Sunday church school music.

His festivals and Juvenile Singing Classes stirred up an interest in having musical instruction in the public schools. He lived from 1816 to 1868.

(Answer . . . William B. Bradbury)



—Lew Merrim from Monkmeyer

by Eileen M. Hasse

PARENTS AND TEEN-AGERS,

GROWING

SOMETIMES WE TEEN-AGERS get a feeling our parents would like to take an extended vacation while we grow up. Most of the time, and especially in Christian homes, the family situation is not that bad. Most families have their ups and downs. Christian families have a way of increasing the ups and decreasing the downs. Still, our parents seem to have many questions about us. Perhaps we can help them to be more friendly and helpful by talking about their complaints. Maybe, as we grow, they should do a little growing, too.

Here are some of their questions—and our answers.

“Why don’t young people act like part of the family?”

How can a teen-ager feel important, or feel like he belongs, when his folks are absorbed in some mythical television world or off to some meeting? There is plenty to do around home. We know that. But who wants to do things all

alone? Not us teen-agers. We think we should make the most of the time we have with our parents. We and our parents should do more things together. When there are activities that parents must attend, or that we must attend, let us trust each others’ judgment. Then we will be part of the family. And in the family everybody will be growing—we teen-agers, and our parents, too.

“Why don’t the kids help around home?”

We teen-agers would like to help more, but it seems an uphill job convincing the folks there are other ways to do things than the tried old ones they are used to. We want to be a bit creative. We would like our parents to be creative, too—with us. We do not like to be told how to do things all the time. Sometimes we like to be treated like a partner rather than a maid. We do not find it much fun to go out of our way to do something around home only to find we did not do it right. Most of us like to work along with the

folks on the household chores. We would like to share in planning household tasks, too. We would grow. Our parents would grow, too.

“Why are young people gone all the time?”

Sometimes we teen-agers know we are gone too much. We actually wish our folks would help us clamp down on ourselves. We find it difficult to sort out what activities have a real reason to be part of our lives. We feel we could grow closer to our folks if they would help us weed out the activities that are not worthwhile. Sometimes we actually think of staying home with a good book. Perhaps a little more help in planning our time would cut out some of the running around. Christian parents can learn to give help instead of orders. We would be helped, and grow. They, by helping, would grow.

“Why do young people allow their grades to go down? Why don’t they study more?”

Most of us teen-agers find many

The author is a free-lance writer.

things to do that are fun. Some of us wonder why we should study long hard hours just to get good grades. We can devote many of those hours to a good time and still slip through school on average grades. Some of us wake up too late to the fact that the academic accomplishments which earn good grades are important to our getting a good job later, and to our whole development as persons. Some of us wish our parents would take more of an active interest in our school work. If our parents participated a bit in our reading and studying, perhaps we would take to books a little more kindly. We do not want to be prodded along constantly, but we do want our folks to show they are interested in our grades, and in what we are becoming as persons.

Again, sometimes we have

we see people neglecting to do the things that are called good, and doing the things that are called bad. We want someone to show the way. Most of all we teen-agers want our folks to trust us.

Most of us teen-agers are really grateful for Christian parents who love us and have faith in us. We are glad they have made us aware that the Bible contains a record of God's revelation of his will for men—and principles that are relevant to us. We would welcome more opportunities to study the Bible, and the life of Jesus, with our parents. We wish they would share with us in a daily search for increased understanding of the source, purpose and meaning of life. We think if our Christian parents would pray with us, we and they would grow closer to God and each other. Would not this

they are so easily worried and often make us feel we are at fault.

It is a crazy-mixed-up world. Even the advertising to which we are all the time and everywhere exposed is so deceitful. Many products are advertised as being good which we have seen do great harm. We cannot understand why adults permit places to keep open that repeatedly get young people into trouble. Perhaps being an adult is difficult, but so is being a young adult.

Let us face it. Parents have many reasons to complain. We teen-agers do not blame them for wishing they could go on a long vacation and return to find us grown into responsible adults. Parents have questions. So do we. Why do not we all, as Christians, share in seeking answers? Why do not we all seek as Jesus suggested

Teen-Agers Examine Parents' Complaints

schoolwork to do at home, but find no place to do it. In school, when things are quiet and everyone else is studying, it is easier for us to work. At home when everyone around us is talking or doing enjoyable things, it is not easy to settle down to homework. A lot of this problem would be solved if our parents took a participative interest in our studies and shared with us in thinking some of our study questions through.

"Why is it so difficult to raise kids these days?"

We teen-agers know that we have too much money and that we come by it too easily. We know we can go too far too fast, and that we have too little discipline. We wish parents would help us formulate a set of standards—a sort of yardstick by which to live. Christian parents certainly should help us formulate Christian standards. We want to have faith in God. We need our folks to help us discover the basis of intelligent faith. We ache for an example to follow. People say, "Do this! Do not do that!" But all around us

lead to growth for us, and for them?

Too many parents quit coming in to hear our troubles at bedtime when we have reached the age of twelve. That is when they should not quit. We need them more than ever. That is when our problems really begin. Perhaps, the bedtime routine is not the way to get at this need. But some moments which are quiet, isolated, undisturbed, and very intimate are needed in which we can let our loving parents share our deepest most heartfelt concerns. Surely, in such intimate sharing, we would grow, and they with us.

"Why should young people today have problems?"

We teen-agers have problems of choosing the right subjects in school. It is the decisions that are difficult. We like to feel we are making the decisions alone. Yet, more than anything, we want our folks to be thinking with us.

We have problems in choosing the right company. Sometimes we wonder if we are choosing wisely. We hesitate to ask parents because

his followers should seek. And as we seek together, please parents:

Keep loving us. Talk to us sometimes without scolding or finding fault.

Lead us. Do not drive us—lead.

Teach us to live. Please take time to live with us.

Teach us to think. Think with us, and show some respect for our thinking.

Teach us to pray. Pray with us. We would feel so much surer about prayer if we could see you praying with us.

We could be a great team. Our two generations could be cemented together by faith and love and Christian service. Our two generations could explore together the basic questions of life—"What is man? Why is God mindful of him? What is man's life for, what has he to do with life? How can man do with life what God, his Creator, wants him to do?" Together the members of our two generations could learn and grow.

We teen-agers cannot do it alone. Help us. Help God to help both us and you.

"LIKE

a

FATHER"

by Eugene F. Gerlitz

What
is
YOUR
concept
of
God?

C. S. LEWIS, the British churchman and author of many books, tells of the schoolboy who was asked what he thought God was like. The boy replied that he thought God was the kind of a person who was always snooping about to see if anyone was enjoying himself so that he could put a stop to it. Too many people have similar erroneous conceptions about God. He is to them what he was to the Athenians on Mars Hill, "The Unknown God."

What is God like? This is one of those age-old questions which has intrigued and tormented men through the ages. The ancient Canaanites said, "God is like a bloodthirsty tyrant," and burned their children to appease their god. The Greeks said, "God is like a man, jealous, lustful, and fickle." The eighteenth century deist said, "God is like a remote sovereign who has gone off on a long journey, who has very little interest in the personal affairs of his citizens." The skeptic says, "Nobody can tell what God is like, if there is a God." What is God like? Do we know?

God is like a father. This is the answer of the Bible. This is the answer of Jesus who taught his disciples to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven" (Matt. 6:9). Over and over again Jesus referred to God as his Father and ours. Over and over again he sought to reveal

God to his disciples by likening him to a father in this respect or that. The fatherhood of God is one of the highest conceptions of God which man has held through the centuries. It is the best expression, the loftiest revelation, and the fullest exhibition of the relationship of God to man. When we pray, "Our Father . . .," and understand the words which we are using, we express most fittingly our own relationship to God.

What does the fatherhood of God teach us about family life? What does fatherhood in our own family teach us about God as Father? These are the questions we wish to cover in this article and the two study outlines which accompany it. The name "Father" does not say everything about God that needs to be said, but it does reveal the character of God better than any other one word can do. It does tell us a great deal about God.

The Source of Life

The Father is the source of life. Humanly speaking, the seed of life is in the father, and without the father there can be no life. Cosmically speaking, that is true of God the Father. It is no coincidence that this is so. Human fatherhood has its source in the fatherhood of God.

In this sense God is Father of all mankind. He originates and

sustains all men as personal beings like in nature to himself. He is called the Father of the Gentiles (Deut. 32:6), the Father of all because he has created all (Mal. 2:10), "Father of us all" (Eph. 4:6), and "the Father of spirits" (Heb. 12:9). In another deeper and more significant sense, God is Father only of those who are born of the Spirit, of those who have become his children by faith in his Son (John 1:12-13, Rom. 8:14, 2 Cor. 6:17-18, Gal. 3:26, 1 John 3:1-2). The former is called "the natural fatherhood of God," the latter, "the special fatherhood of God." God is physically and naturally the Father of all men; he is morally and spiritually the Father only of those who have been converted. The natural fatherhood of God prepares the way for his special fatherhood toward all those who believe in Christ and are regenerated by his Spirit.

All men have their life from God. Without the express and positive act of God their life would not exist. "In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

All life is sustained by God. This is another aspect of fatherhood. The true father not only brings life into the world but sustains that life after it is brought into existence. He provides shelter, protection, warmth, and food. If the new life

were not provided for it would soon die. God sustains the life he has created.

Children resemble their father in some respects. They may inherit his physical features, his temperament, or other characteristics. So all men resemble God in certain ways. We are all made in God's image. Like God, and in contrast to all other earthly creatures, we are persons; we possess a moral nature, a conscience, a free will, and self-consciousness. Originally, man was like God in goodness also, but man lost his goodness in his sin against God. That likeness to God is being recovered by those who are redeemed by faith in Christ and will be completely recovered when that redemption is completed.

A Perfect Love

The true father loves his children. The love of God for his children far surpasses the love of any earthly father for his children. "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God" (1 John 3:1). God has demonstrated his great love in a multitude of ways. He has filled man's world with everything good. The soil, the air, the

seas, the rivers, the mines of the earth, the mountains, and even the deserts teem with good things to bless the life of man. It is the nature of love to desire the highest good for the one loved and to provide that good as far as possible. Children may sin against their father, but a loving father forgives them and receives them back into the fellowship of the family. Our Father in heaven forgives his erring children when they sin and at infinitely greater cost to himself than that of any forgiveness of earthly fathers to their children. The great culminating act of the Father's love is the giving of his Son, Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:8). We can be sure that such love will always provide the highest good to the object of that love.

The Father loves all men, both his natural and his special children. God loved the whole world and sent his Son to all men (John 3:16). Yet his own spiritual children are the special objects of his love. Any father cares more about his own children than about some one else's children. In the earthly realm it makes a difference whether a request comes from a man's own child or from a neighbor's child. A child's request is

heeded entirely on the basis of his relationship to the father. It does make a difference whether the prayer "Our Father . . ." comes from one of God's own spiritual children, or from a child of the world. However, God's love as a Father is much greater and broader than finite and earthly fatherly love.

An Unceasing Care

The Father provides for every need of his children. The earthly father will do all in his power to provide adequate shelter, wholesome and abundant food, medical care, clothing, and all the other necessities of life for his children. Earthly fathers are often handicapped by human limitations. Sometimes they may not be aware of their children's need. Sometimes the need may be beyond their ability to help. Earthly fatherhood is tainted by passions, selfishness, and imperfect love. A father may make errors of judgment and may be hindered by financial, physical, and moral inability. Yet, as a general rule, if he is a worthy father, he does a pretty fair job of caring for his children. "If you then, who are

(Continued on page 30)

Even the busy father
can find ways to fulfill
the love-needs of
his child



—W. Henry Boller

ALICE PAYNE FOLDED the last of the freshly ironed clothes and carried them upstairs to the children's rooms. Her hands did the work of putting them away automatically while her thoughts drifted to the difficult task ahead. What was she to tell Mike about going to summer camp? She left his pile of T-shirts and jeans until last because she knew he was in his room brooding.

At last she knocked and went in. He was huddled on the window seat staring down into the spring-filled garden, his bushy red hair sticking up in back as usual and an abused look in his brown eyes.

"Hi there, Son." She tried to make her voice cheerful and light. "Got all your homework done already?"

He shrugged thin shoulders and responded sullenly. "What's the use? Why try to work for A's if it isn't going to get you any place? You said if I made good grades you'd try to send me to camp this summer. Now it's all off. So why should I beat my brains?"

Alice placed the folded clothes in his drawer and went to sit beside him in the old re-covered chair. She knew she would have to choose her words carefully to explain this to him.

"Listen, Son. There is such a thing as doing a job well for its own sake, you know. These freshman grades are going to show up on your record for college admittance and all through life. They aren't just for getting you what you want at the present moment. They are an indication whether or not you are doing your best. We haven't really decided about camp yet. It's just that I thought we shouldn't worry your father with that problem while he is so upset over his pay-cut with only part-time work since his illness. There may be some way to work it out, but with Patty going to college next year and all, it does look a little hopeless." Alice sighed, thinking of all their plans going glimmering because of this setback.

"But can't Pat get a scholarship? She has made straight A's all through high school. If grades are

so wonderful, why don't they get her some place?" Mike kept switching the frayed end of his old belt against his patched jeans in his irritation.

"We've tried that, but even if she wins one it will only pay a small part of her expenses because we really have her college savings put away, just as we were putting some away each month for you and the two little ones before this happened. And grants are based on need."

"Then it doesn't pay to be thrifty either," Mike argued with keen insight. "I'll just use mine for camp and then you can truthfully say you don't have any savings for my college education and so get a grant-in-aid, if it works that way."

Alice laughed in spite of herself. "You've got it all figured out, haven't you? You won't even be able to pass the tests and be eligible for a scholarship if you don't apply yourself. Then where would you be? Well, let's not cross our bridges just yet. It's quite awhile before camp begins. Maybe we can work something out." She rose and started for the door. "You could mow the lawn and surprise Dad if you really want to help. And we'll have a family conference on it soon."

That night at dinner Leslie brought up the subject himself. "Well, family, I guess we're going to have to tighten our belts. I'm sorry about this whole thing. But we're going to have to decide what comes first this summer and cut off the unessentials at the bottom of the list." Alice felt sorry for Les. She could see how it hurt him to say this.

"Does that mean camp?" Mike questioned dolefully.

"It may, Son. At least that expensive camp you had talked of. But there must be other things to do. Or perhaps you could get a job as a helper and sort of work your way through?"

Mike's face fell. "Who wants to do that? The fellows at Scout camp who were counselors never had much fun—always on the run."

Patricia glowered at him and

by
*Ona
Freeman
Lathrop*

her gray eyes flashed as she brushed back her dark curly hair. "Mike Payne, you ought to be ashamed. Thinking of that expensive camp with things as they are! Daddy, I've got a job lined up for this summer if you'll let me take it instead of going to summer school. Miss Haley says I may work in her frock shop, and she'll let me have anything I buy at cost or almost. It will be a wonderful way to get my clothes for college."

Mike bristled. "I see you're still counting on going to an expensive college, and buying expensive clothes. Why don't you settle for a teachers' college? No, not you!"

"State university is about as reasonable as you can find, if you don't intend to teach. Besides, I'm registered there. I can't change now."

"Children, stop bickering," Alice warned. "We are all going to find ways to help. I have a dozen plans in my head. I'm sure we can work things out if everyone co-operates. Mike, you think it over and you'll see that money isn't everything. We ought to be glad Daddy's health is better now and that we are all well and able to help out in this crisis. Let's think of the good life we have instead of the few things which we have to give up."

She knew she wasn't getting through to Mike though. At that age, little things take on a magnitude that an adult can hardly realize. Well, she'd keep trying. There must be some way to help him.

When at last the children had gone up to bed, she turned to find Les sitting with his head buried in his two hands. "I guess I've failed them, Allie—all of you. I feel like a heel letting Mike down. I know

TOGETHER WE STAND

G.S. SCHOOL



Illustrated by
Art Fata-Simmons

He shrugged thin shoulders and responded sullenly.

how much he counted on this summer. And Patty too."

She went then and put warm comforting arms about him. "Les, it's probably good for all of us to wake up. We've been thinking money could buy anything when it came easily. Well, it's time we all learned that it can't always buy happiness. Somewhere I must have failed, too, if it seems so important to them. I think we all need a new sense of values. Don't you worry. We'll think of some way."

That night she lay staring into the dark a long time. Where had they erred in putting too much emphasis on the little tin god of money? She hadn't realized they were spoiling their children by trying to satisfy their wants. It all seemed to have slipped up on them unnoticed, but it made a rude awakening for the children. Somehow she must make amends. She turned many possibilities over in her mind.

For the next few days, no one mentioned the new regime. Pat very carefully darned the hole she tore in her tweed skirt, and no one complained about the number of hamburger meals. But Mike went about with an injured look on his face that twisted Alice's heart.

Then on Monday morning while they were all at breakfast, Alice disappeared and suddenly came down with her good tailored suit and a hat on.

"You two older ones see that the dishes are done and the little ones are sent off to school with their lunch money," she said seriously.

"Why Mother, where are you going this time of day? they chorused.

"I have a job. Old Mr. Townley said I could come back to his office and take my old job back. And you, Mike, see that you come home at 3:30 to look after the little ones until I get here at five."

"Me? But why me? I'm no baby-sitter. Why not Pat?" Mike bellowed.

"Because I'm doing this to earn extra money for your camp, young man. Since you can't accept our change of plans gracefully, I de-

cided to do something about it. Pat has her rehearsals and other activities. You will have to take over. Just cancel whatever you usually plan for after school, and be sure to look after Martha and Lonnie." She pretended not to notice the consternation in their faces as she went out.

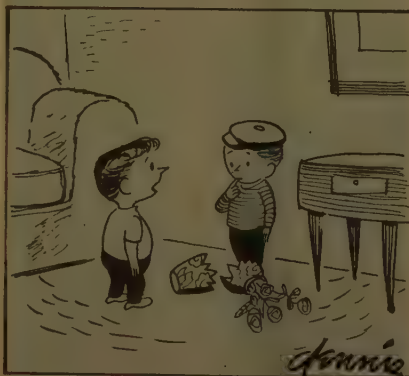
For a time everything worked out very well, and when Alice brought home her first paycheck and deposited part of it in an envelope marked 'Mike's Camp Fund' the family rallied around and cheered. All except Mike—he had a guilty look as he fled to his room.

Then came the night that Mike forgot to hurry home from school. Afterwards he explained that one of the boys had tire trouble and he stayed to help him, completely forgetting his new duty. Anyway, Martha and Lonnie came home to an empty house and wandered off again. When Alice came home at five, Mike was hunting frantically for them and was covered with shame and abject apologies.

The hunt went on even after Leslie and Pat got home, but by that time the whole neighborhood was aroused and Alice and Mike were in tears.

"I should never have taken the job, of course," Alice sobbed to Les. "I thought it would teach Mike a lesson, but I'm not sure it has."

And Mike groaned, "You've



"Let's plead temporary insanity!"

taught me a lesson all right, but not the way you planned, Mom. You've made me ashamed to be so selfish and thoughtless as to let my mother go to work for a silly whim of mine. And I'm ashamed to be so untrustworthy when I had a job to do. I don't deserve camp. I'm going out and finding those little kids if it's the last thing I ever do."

And he did. He came trailing back with them in tow at dusk—dirty and bedraggled because they had been playing in the woods behind the cemetery. "I just remembered they asked me to take them there once, and I wouldn't," Mike told the relieved family. Alice and Les couldn't reprimand him further, because he had been punished enough.

The next night at dinner, Mike made his announcement. "I've got a job," he said proudly. "I'm going to work for Denning's Sport Shop—after school this spring, as soon as Mom can get out of her job, and then full time when school is out this summer."

"Why, Mike, that's wonderful!" Alice smiled. "You mean until time to go to camp?"

"I mean all summer. And as long as they'll keep me next year, too. I can help with my own expenses and maybe even have something to turn into the family kitty besides." He squared his shoulders.

Pat gave him a sisterly hug and said, "That's my big brother." And Leslie shook hands in a man-to-man fashion and congratulated him. Alice said, "I'm glad you got the job, Son. And I'm even more glad that you see things in a new light." She wiped a tear away as she hurried to the kitchen, but she let them drop unnoticed as she listened.

Mike was saying, "I decided it was time I grew up. You need a man around here to mow lawns and things this summer, Dad, and I couldn't possibly go off and leave you. We've got to stand together as a family. We always have, and we always will."

And at last Alice felt perhaps they hadn't failed entirely as parents after all.

Leftover Christmas Candy

by Evelyn Witter

NOW THAT THE HOLIDAYS are over that Christmas hard candy the youngsters were so eager to get into, and which looked

so festive in the candy dish, looks as if it's fated to be wasted.

Don't discard it. It has a very tempting role to play in your cookery.

All the different kinds of hard

candies can be combined and rolled fine with a rolling pin or chopped up in your food chopper. Then the fine bits of candy can be used to sprinkle on a freshly frosted cake or freshly frosted cookies.

The combined flavors of these different kinds of candies add delicious and unusual taste appeal. And the colorful eye appeal makes even an ordinary cake a festive-looking delight.

bIBLEGRAM

by Hilda E. Allen

Guess the words defined below and write them over their numbered dashes. Then transfer each letter to the correspondingly numbered square in the pattern. The colored squares indicate word endings.

Reading from left to right, you will find that the filled pattern will contain a selected quotation from the Bible.

A An embankment to prevent flooding -----	106 21 42 33 112
B Sent back sound -----	43 78 32 14 6 125
C Like Adeline -----	103 12 121 65 59
D Wool that grows on sheep -----	58 122 68 77 104 26
E Honey makers' home --	81 102 98 88
F Hard covering of an oyster -----	114 92 39 64 96
G Sew -----	5 76 41 51 15 10
H Piece of armor worn for protection -----	23 67 19 89 111 37
I Sweetness from bees --	100 29 85 11 56
J Went on a walking trip	46 49 87 115 20
K He had a magic lamp --	95 2 84 54 7 93 17
L Sweeper -----	1 71 57 61 48
M An arm or a leg -----	40 117 94 110
N Sportswear -----	45 52 35 74 24 4

O Call up -----	73 25 75 118 108
P Men's upper garments --	18 120 82 22 79 9
Q Boundary -----	107 47 83 97 119
R Food fish -----	13 123 69 8 63 62 31
S Small bodies of water --	27 70 124 116 91
T Most beloved -----	72 99 55 30 3 80 66
U Came ashore -----	34 105 50 86 53 38
V Makes mistakes -----	101 36 60 113
W Sag -----	109 44 16 28 90

(Solution on page 30)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11		12	13	14		15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23		24	25	26		27	28	29	30
	31	32	33		34	35	36	37		38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45		46	47	48		49
50		51	52	53		54	55	56		57	58
	59	60	61	62	63	64	65		66	67	68
	69	70	71	72		73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80		81	82	83		84	85	86		87
88	89	90	91		92	93	94		95	96	97
98	99		100	101		102	103		104	105	106
107	108	109		110	111	112	113	114	115	116	
117	118		119	120	121		122	123	124	125	

"That Your Joy May

How Christian Joy may be cultivated

CHRISTIANITY IS A RELIGION of joy. "*Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy*" were words with which the birth of Jesus was announced to the shepherds caring for their flocks on the Judean hillside long years ago. *And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy* was said of the eleven after they had turned away from Bethany following the ascension of Jesus.

During his ministry between those two events, Jesus himself emphasized this Christian virtue. He spoke often of his own joy and yearned to make that same joy felt in the hearts of his friends. He even told his followers to leap for joy in times of persecution or ill-treatment. In his farewell message to the twelve he said, "*These things I have spoken to you, that my joy be in you, and that your joy may be full.*" Those of us who seek to follow him today are truly Christians only to the degree to which that wish has been fulfilled in our lives.

Where but in the home can this Christian joy primarily be cultivated? The very physical appearance of the home itself helps to foster this quality. Neat, clean, bright, and attractive surroundings are conducive to its birth and growth. They create a cheery atmosphere which naturally lifts one's spirits and calls for a response of gladness or joy. How well our manufacturers know this truth, for gay colors have become the order of our day from interior furnishings and appointments to exterior paint!

We cannot, however, depend

wholly upon the physical atmosphere of the home to instill Christian joy in the hearts and lives of family members. The spiritual attitudes expressed there also play an important role toward this achievement. As with measles or mumps, the spirit of joy is catching, and no member of the family is immune. A joyous mother singing at her work means happy children singing at their play. A father meeting disappointment with optimism and cheer sets the pattern for other members of the family to follow under similar circumstances. A mother and father reflecting the joy and satisfaction of family sharing and working lead to the discovery of a similar joy on the part of their children. Happy, contented, joyous boys and girls do not just happen. They are the product of a home in which the spirit of joy and happiness abounds. All of which leads to another observation.

Christian joy does not come into one's life of and by itself alone. It is the outgrowth or by-product of the experiences of an individual or group. It can, therefore, be cultivated by guiding or controlling ways of behavior which bring it to blossom in life. This fact is of tremendous significance to parents, for theirs is the high privilege of "setting the stage" for the development of this trait in the lives of their boys and girls. May we suggest here several ways in which this can be done?

1. *Guide your boys and girls to find joy in their achievements.* The wish to succeed is one of the funda-

mental wishes of people everywhere. It is the God-given incentive which spurs us on to do our work well. It carries with it its own reward—the joy and satisfaction of knowing we have done our best. Parents can help their children achieve this joy by helping them select individual projects or assigning them tasks which are within their ability and attention span to perform, by giving them the necessary guidance to avoid mistakes and discouragement, and by bestowing praise when praise is due. These coupled with the parents' own example will help to turn work into pleasure and begin building Christian working habits for the future.

2. *Guide your boys and girls to find joy in the achievements of others.* After children have known the joy of accomplishment for themselves, they can appreciate what such joy means to others. And more than that, they can be led through the example and suggestion of parents to appreciate the work of others and to rejoice with the worker in what has been done. Families, as well, can experience joy together when one of their number receives a high honor or recognition for some attainment. Such an occasion might well become a red-letter day, marked by some special festivity, perhaps nothing more than serving the honoree's favorite food or dessert at dinner. Such joy also can be expressed in person or by note when that honor falls on a friend or neighbor. To rejoice with another at a time when the honor was one coveted by the

Be Full"

by
Mabel
Niedermeyer
McCaw

well-wisher, himself, marks a real advance in his Christian character-growth.

3. *Guide your boys and girls to find joy through sharing with others.* This may be done within the family or with those outside the family group, by individuals or by the family as a whole. Birthdays, Christmas, Mother's and Father's Day are times when thought of others usually takes the form of giving gifts. Thanksgiving, Easter, May Day are likewise occasions when some families remember others outside their home. Giving at these times can be a source of real joy when the giver is helped to put thought into his gift and encouraged to bear all or part of the expense. The child who proudly announced, "I made it myself," as he gave his mother a decorated paper plate verifies the fact that there is joy in making the gift as well.

Giving of self as one plans for the happiness of others also may be considered here. A child forced to give up his room when a friend or relative comes to visit may create an embarrassing situation for everyone. How much better it would be if the family talked the matter over in an effort to discover what might be done to make the guest most comfortable! In a "talking-it-over" family where the rights of all are equally considered, such a conference might lead to another solution or to the child finding joy in giving up his room as his part in making the visit a happy one.

The author is a curriculum writer and prolific author of material for children.



—Charles AquaViva from Don Knight

Again Christian joy comes when one gives through his church if that giving is done gladly and intelligently. Here again the parents' attitude toward money and their practice in giving influence that of their children. As a rule, tithing parents beget tithing children, and the joy which the parents find in their partnership with God becomes the children's joy as well. Family conversation about the needs and program of the church, information and pictures of the work of the church on the family bulletin board, assistance in planning their giving from their allowance or earnings—these will help to lead boys and girls to reap the joys which come to stewards of the church.

4. *Guide your boys and girls to have a sustaining faith in the goodness and love of God. Christianity is a religion of love. God is love. God so loved the world that he sent his Son. We love because he first loved us. Love! Love! Love!* Belief in and response to this love fills the heart with joy which cannot be taken away. Parents can lead their boys and girls to such a relationship with God by helping them to discover God's love in the world of nature, people, and the everyday happenings of life; by guiding them in individual and family worship; by ever expressing a deep and abiding faith in God's love in their presence. Blessed indeed are the children of such parents.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

by
Rae
Cross



Illustrated by Art FitzSimmons

IT WAS NEW YEAR'S DAY. Chuck stood angrily looking out the big picture window. He pounded his fist into his new baseball mitt as though he were trying to keep up with the snowflakes that were falling outside.

Where the mailbox had been, there was only an enormous snow-drift. The bare branches of the trees trembled under their heavy load. Now and then a great gust of wind tore by, piling the snow even deeper on the porch and walk. The snowplow had gone down the road early that morning, but now the snow had drifted back in great soft ripples.

"Might as well not have got a glove for Christmas," grumbled Chuck, hitting it another terrific bang.

"I thought a glove was what you wanted most," said Uncle Bob, looking up from the newspaper.

"Sure it was." Chuck's brown eyes snapped. "But you can't play ball in a snowstorm!"

"No, I guess you can't," agreed

Uncle Bob. "But seems to me there are lots of things you can do." He got up and walked over to the window. "Ted and Alice seem to be having a wonderful time out there building a snowman."

Disgusted, Chuck drew forth all the dignity of his eleven years. "That's kid stuff." His voice was as icy as the weather.

"Maybe it is kid stuff, but it seems to be lots of fun." Uncle Bob chuckled as he watched Ted and Alice put a broom in the snowman's arm. "Didn't you get a sled for Christmas last year?" he asked thoughtfully.

"Sure," grunted Chuck. "Last year I got a sled and it hardly snowed all winter. Now I get a glove and there's *nothing but* snow."

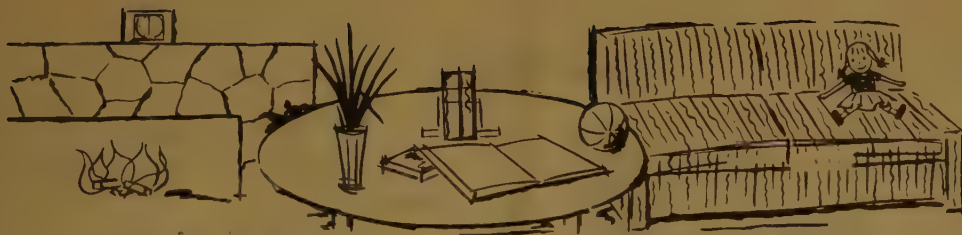
"Sort of reminds me of the umbrella seller." Uncle Bob's face looked like it was trying to hide a happy secret.

"What about him?" Chuck hoped his voice didn't sound interested.

(Continued on page 28)

"...you can't play ball in a snowstorm!"

The author is a free-lance writer.



for parents

FAMILY WORSHIP

The whole tone of family life is influenced by the attitude of its members. When the prevailing attitude is happy, then life is pleasant and easy for all. When there is a greater spirit of unhappiness, surliness, or crossness, then all suffer. The Christian home should be a happy one. Christian parents can do much to help each member of the family cultivate a joyous spirit. (See the article, "That Your Joy May Be Full," page 12.) Parents also can set the example of a joyous spirit.

This is not to say that any family should adopt a "Pollyanna" attitude. There come times of unrest and uneasiness to everyone. But each person has a predominant attitude, and this can be cultivated into the kind of spirit one chooses it to be.

The spirit of rejoicing is not easily won. It must be cultivated through the exercise of patience. Many of the irritating and bothersome experiences of each day offer opportunity to practice patience.

Prayer also is a factor not to be overlooked as one tempers his spirit and molds it that it may be filled and overflow with joy.

Children's Heritage

Children who live in a climate of rejoicing will remember their childhood home with pleasure and gratitude. More than this, they will have had the security and peace that helps one to develop an inner peace that may become a living spring that bubbles forth daily in a life of joy.

An old German mystic is credited with having said, "Accept everything as if you had prayed for it." This is the true spirit of joy—to be able to meet any and every situation, no matter how bad it may be, with the conviction that it could have been worse and to find something in it for which to thank God.

A New Year's Resolution

This is the first month of a new year. As parents, you might resolve that you will nurture the spirit of rejoicing in your family during the coming year. You may make a beginning as you use the worship materials suggested for this month. The over-all theme is "Joy." During the first week you and your family may think about rejoicing, especially

when things go wrong. It is easy to rejoice when all goes as one hopes or wants. The real test comes when things go contrary to wishes and expectations. If one can truly rejoice in disappointments and setbacks, the battle has been won!

The theme for the second week is "Patience." This quality is needed by every individual as he faces each day. When families use patience in all their relationships, joy usually results.

The third week's theme is "Prayer." Every Christian could pray more than he does. As your family prays individually and as a group, their joy in one another will increase.

The theme for the fourth week, "Peace," is the climax of the month. Deep peace results from the practice of rejoicing, patience, and prayer.

Theme for

January:

Joy

Use the Bible

The use of the Bible is indispensable in family worship. Many passages in the Bible speak of joy. In your own Bible reading and study, you may want to look up and think about many of them. For periods of worship in your family, one passage is suggested for the month: Philippians 4:4-7.

If you have older children in your family, they may read the entire passage at each worship period. If you have younger children, the one verse suggested on each of the next four pages probably will be as much as they can understand.

Resource Material

The next four pages contain other resource materials. They may be used for informal periods of worship or within the framework of an order of worship if that is the pattern you follow. The age group for which each resource is best suited is indicated: (K), preschool children; (P), younger elementary age; (J), older elementary age. Where there is no indication, the material is suitable for all.

You, the parents of the family, have had experiences that may be rich resources for worship. Share these with your family; or your children may be able to share something that has happened to them that will enrich the worship of all.



—A. Devaney, Inc.

Storytelling Play (P, J)

Mother or Father: "Let's think about the Bible verse we have just read. What does it say to you? Do you know what the word 'rejoice' means?"

"Let's try the game of storytelling. Look at the picture on this page. Then I'll start the story. When I stop I'll point to one of you and you may go on with the story until I say 'Stop.' Then someone else may take a turn until I say 'Stop' again or 'End the story.' See if we can use the word 'rejoice' somewhere in our story."

Have every member of the family look at the picture carefully.

Mother begins: "Janet had wanted a dog for a long time. Daddy and Mother wanted her to have one. When she was small they had lived in an apartment that did not allow dogs. When they moved to a house with a yard, Mother thought Janet would not remember to feed a pet because she often forgot to . . ." (Point to another family member to continue the game.)

Questions to tease the imagination:

When did Janet get the dog? Rules about its care?

Who are the other children? What are they doing?

What did the children learn?

Note: If you have used storytelling play before in your family, one of the children may start the story in his own way.

—Pearl Barnes Smith

A Bible Verse

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.—Philippians 4:4.

Prayer

Dear God, it is not always easy to be glad and happy. When things go wrong, or when they do not suit me, I sometimes am unhappy and act in ugly ways. Help me to remember that when I do this, I may keep someone else from being happy. Amen.

When Christmas Day Is Over

Christmas is a loving time,
But I can spread good cheer
In whatever I may do
All through the coming year.

I can speak more kindly
And choose well the words I say,
And look for helpful things to do
For someone every day.

These are gifts which I can give
To family and friends
When Christmas Day is over
And Christmas giving ends.

—Mabel Niedermeyer McCaw

Toys Are for Sharing (K)

Christmas was over and all of David's toys had found a place on the shelves in his room—all except his favorite—the tool chest Uncle Al had given him.

"You know what, Mother!" said David as he looked at his shiny new saw, "this is the best present I ever had and I'm going to take good care of it. I'm not going to let anyone else play with it."

Mother looked at David as she said, "Do you remember why you wanted a tool chest for Christmas?"

David thought for a moment, then he said, "Well, I guess it was because I had so much fun playing with Bobby's birthday tools."

"Yes," Mother said, "Bobby let you use his hammer and saw. Sometimes toys are more fun when we share them. Sharing is a part of God's plan. We get such a warm, happy feeling inside."

David held up his new hammer. "I'll bet Bobbie could really drive a nail with this hammer. Is it all right to ask him over right now?"

"Indeed it is," Mother said.

"I'm glad," David said.

(Discuss ways to share and care for Christmas toys. Lead your child to appreciate the joys of giving as well as receiving.)

—Pearl Barnes Smith

Theme: Patience

A Bible Verse

Let all men know your forbearance.

—Philippians 4:5.

"Forbearance" is a big word. It has a big meaning: to wait for something; to hold back a hasty word or act; to be patient with others; to consider their point of view.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to act in ways that show "forbearance." Amen.

God, Give Me Eyes

God, give me eyes that see the best
In everyone I meet.
Give me a tongue that never speaks
In anger or deceit.
God, give me willing hands that serve
With tenderness and care,
And grant me ears that listen for
Your answer to a prayer.

—Claire B. Saalbach

Mr. Smoothy and Patience (P, J)

"Mama, what is patience?" Mark asked as he came running into the house with an all-day sucker he had bought from Mr. Smoothy. Mr. Smoothy was the truck that sold ice cream cones in summer and peanuts and candy in winter. The children also called the truck driver "Mr. Smoothy."

"Why do you ask such a question?" his mother asked.

"Well, you see, today there were a lot of boys and girls pushing and shoving to be first to buy candy or peanuts from Mr. Smoothy. One of them was knocked down on the ground. He cried!"

"Mr. Smoothy called out the window of his truck, 'All you boys and girls be careful! Line up and be patient. Then I can serve all of you and no one will be hurt!'"

"I'm glad he used the word 'patient,'" Mother said. "Mr. Smoothy wants all the boys and girls to be able to wait in line quietly, without interfering or causing trouble while he is serving them. If you learn this now, it will be easier for you to grow to be a kind and strong man."

"I thought that was what he meant," Mark said. "Two big boys lined up behind the two who were there first. They helped all the rest of us to get in line. They told us to be quiet. It was much better that way. Everyone was finally served, and no one else got hurt."

To Think About: Which was the better way to buy candy? Why? What boy or girl do you know who showed patience? When were you patient? Tell about a time in your home when you or someone else in your family was patient.

—Thomas L. Henry

Waiting for a Story (K)

Stephen went with his mother to visit Billy, who lived next door. He liked to play with Billy's toys. Stephen saw Billy's new big book. It had lots of pictures of Jesus. He liked to look at them. He talked to Billy about the pictures.

Soon it was time to go home. "I don't want to go home," Stephen said. "I want to play with Billy and look at his book."

"When we get home you can get one of your books and I will read to you," said Mother.

But when Stephen and Mother got home, Daddy was there. Daddy said, "Stephen, you are big enough to wait for Mother to read to you. She needs to get supper now."

When supper was over, Stephen carried his book to Mother.

"Read to me," he said.

"I must wash the dishes," Mother said. "Look at the pictures. You are big enough to wait."

When the dishes were washed, Mother got Stephen ready for bed. All the time, he talked about his story. Just when Mother picked up the book to read, Stephen's big brother and sister called loudly, "Mother, come quickly! See what is broken!"

"Here, Stephen," Mother said, "hold the book until I come back."

Stephen hugged the book in his arms. He liked to hear a story every night before he went to bed. But he was glad he was big enough to wait!

—Thomas L. Henry

—George A. Hammond



Theme: Prayer

Thanks For Friends

Mabel W. McCaw

Mexine G. McCaw

Billy Remembers (K)

It was a bright sunny morning. Billy jumped out of bed when he felt the sun kissing his cheek through the window beside his bed.

This was the morning to go to church! He could hardly wait to go as he remembered the good times at church.

Billy ran to the kitchen as he heard the sounds of Mother preparing breakfast.

"Mother, shall I put on my new blue shirt for church?" Billy asked.

"We will eat breakfast first," said Mother. "Come, climb up on your red stool beside Daddy and me."

Billy's eyes fell on the big glass of milk. He remembered how Mrs. Jones, his teacher, and Mother and Daddy talked about the way they could talk to God and thank him for food.

Billy bowed his head as Daddy said, "Mother, please express our thanks for this food."

"Daddy," Billy said when Mother finished, "I want to say thank you to God, too."

"Fine," Daddy said, and he and Mother bowed their heads.

"Thank you, God, for our milk and food that help us grow big," Billy prayed.

—Betty Underwood

A Bible Verse

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.—Philippians 4:6.

Prayer: Sometimes I am afraid, God, but if I pray I feel better. Help me learn to pray. Amen.

Morning and Night (K, P)

I say a prayer when I get up,
And then at night when day is done
I kneel and say another prayer
To God who cares for everyone.

—Louise Darcy

Teach Me to Pray (J)

Teach me to pray, dear God,
Help me to know
The sort of prayer to pray
That I may grow.

Teach me to pray, dear God,
Help me to see
How I can come to know
Thy will for me.

Teach me to pray, dear God,
Through every day
Help me to feel Thee near
In work or play.

—Grace W. McGavran¹

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A Family Conversation (P, J)

Have you ever wondered if prayer is only something that ministers or church school teachers talk about? Perhaps it seems unreal and without purpose to you. Someone has described prayer as being as important for the Christian life as fresh air is to the physical life. Without it we would die.

In your family circle, why not explore some of the meanings and results of prayer. You might take turns as you talk about and share with one another what you think about some of the following ideas:

What is prayer?

How does praying help us to know God better?

Talk about the different ways through which we hear God speak such as through beautiful things, through God's world of nature, the Bible, or our love for one another. You may list ways God speaks to us. See how long you can make your list.

In what ways does prayer help us to be better persons?

Why should we pray for those who are unkind to us?

How often should we pray?

One way to end your discussion of prayer would be to read the following poem:

Prayer is so simple
It is like quietly opening a door
And slipping into the very presence of God,
There in the stillness
To listen for his voice.
Perhaps to petition
Or only to listen,
It matters not;
Just to be there
In his presence,
Is prayer!

—Author Unknown.

Many families have found happy moments by praying together. Perhaps your family would like to pray together now, each member praying about something for which he is thankful.

—Betty Underwood

Theme: Peace

The Peacemaker (P, J)

"Mother, do you remember the Bible verse Daddy read yesterday about a peacemaker?" Jack asked one day.

"Yes," said Mother. "It was what Jesus said: 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'"

"Well, Mike was a peacemaker today," said Jack. "He kept Tom and me from fighting."

"What were you and Tom quarreling about?" Mother asked.

"I was showing my new bicycle to the fellows," Jack said, "and Tom wanted to know how to open the saddlebags. I told him to let them alone, but he pulled one of the fasteners and it came off. I was pretty sore and jerked it out of his hand."

"He said he was sorry and wanted to try to fix it."

"'No, don't touch it again,' I said, 'I'll fix it.' I tried, but the metal piece was broken. I told Tom he would have to buy me a new saddlebag. He started to cry."

A Bible Verse

And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.—Philippians 4:7.

Prayer: Dear God, I want to have this kind of peace. When I do right, I feel good inside; when I don't I am miserable. Help me always to try hard to do my best, for your sake, and for mine. Amen.

Talking to God (K, P)

I like to talk to God.

He hears me pray;
He's always where I am
Both night and day.

He sees me bow my head
When I say grace;
And when it's night with no
Light any place,

Before I fall asleep
He sees me, too,
And hears me ask his care
The whole night through.

—Norman C. Schlichter²

²From Juniors, copyright, 1946, The American Baptist Publication Society. Used by permission.

"What happened then?" Mother asked.

"Then Mike said, 'Why don't we take it to my Dad? He can fix almost anything.' So we took it to him and he said he could fix it. It was as good as new after he stapled the clasp to the strap."

"What I liked," Jack went on, "was that Tom didn't try to keep out of it. He did something."

"That is real peacemaking," Mother agreed.

—Ena Chatfield Henry

Evening Prayer (J)

Tomorrow is another day.

Lord, bless the night that lies between

With quiet sleep that I may rise
To greet with joy the morning
skies,

Of tiredness all washed and clean,
My courage high, my heart serene.
Then guide me on Thy forward
way.

—Grace McGavran¹

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Patty Rests (K)

Here is a mother and her little girl. What is the mother doing? Perhaps she is telling Patty a story or singing a song. If she is singing, what do you think she is singing about?

What are Mother and Patty wearing that tell us it is cold outside? Perhaps Patty has been playing out in the snow. She tried to make snowballs like the older children. A snowball struck her and she sat down in the snow. She was cold when she went into the house.

Mother took off Patty's wet clothing, put on her flannel pajamas, and gave her some hot cereal and milk.

"Isn't it nice and warm in the house?" Patty asked as she snuggled down in Mother's lap.

"Yes," said Mother. "God planned for homes where we can have a peaceful place to rest when we are tired."

"Thank you, God," said Patty, sleepily.

—Ena Chatfield Henry

—Luoma Photos



DID YOU EVER STOP to think that one of the busiest roads in your town is the one that leads to the door of the parsonage?

And have you noticed that this particular road is not "busy" in the conventional sense, meaning the number of vehicles traveling to and from the home of the minister?

Nor does its busyness mean the endless and generous armloads of food and other gifts brought to that doorstep. Or the many times the missionary group or the choir or the church deacons and elders chose to knock and be welcomed.

All these instances, and others, do happen on this street to the parsonage. However, they are not the extent or the real meaning of its being the most traveled road in the community.

Those who live in the parsonage, those who live in the parish, and certainly those who have lived in both places know from experience and from insight that this "road"—a mythical one of course—has a different meaning than a definition in the traffic sense.

This meaning is one based on the unseen rather than the obvious. It is boundless rather than limited. It has to do with things of the spirit rather than physical things.

Let us describe it this way:

Early in my husband's ministry, we learned a valuable lesson which we have never forgotten and which has crystallized our actions and our thinking in regards to this matter of the road leading to and from the parsonage.

We had entertained Mr. Tom and his wife, an elderly couple who were members of our church, at Sunday dinner that day. The afternoon was a happy, comfortable, restful one until Mr. Tom got up to say his good-bys, and then he threw a bomb-shell right between the eyes of the parsonage family and straight into our consciences.

Mr. Tom said, "I'm an old man nearly eighty years old and I can remember as a boy years back, Sunday after Sunday, when my mother cooked dinner for some preacher. This is the first time I ever set foot in a preacher's house and put my feet under his table."

We all had a shaky laugh over that, but immediately after Mr. Tom left, and at intervals ever since, we have thought over his words and their meaning.

Now Mr. Tom wasn't curious about the inside appearance of the parsonage, nor had he spent the greater part of his life begrudging pastors and their families the hospitality they had received from him and his family. Certainly his attitude had nothing to do with etiquette or payment in kind, though on the surface his words would seem so.

Nevertheless, Mr. Tom sensed something about that visit that was mighty important. Although he could never put his exact feelings into words, Mr. Tom was saying, in effect, "*The road to the parsonage is a two-way street.*"

Everyone knows that the minister makes his rounds of calling on the sick, the friendless, the doubting,

Two-way Road to the Parsonage

by
Alpha
Mell
Stuart

the cranky, the disturbed. He treks with devotion and without cease from home to the church building and back home again. There are also the necessarily few but refreshing visits to the homes of friends for purely social reasons. These travels help make the road from the parsonage to the parish a busy thoroughfare.

However, on the other side of this two-way street, the church member goes from the parish to the parsonage for many reasons, reasons as different and as numerous as there are names on the church roll.

The lonely and the neglected find their way to the home of the pastor. The well-meaning, the well-adjusted, the well-balanced find their way. All seek the minister for their own purposes as well as the more important purposes of the church.

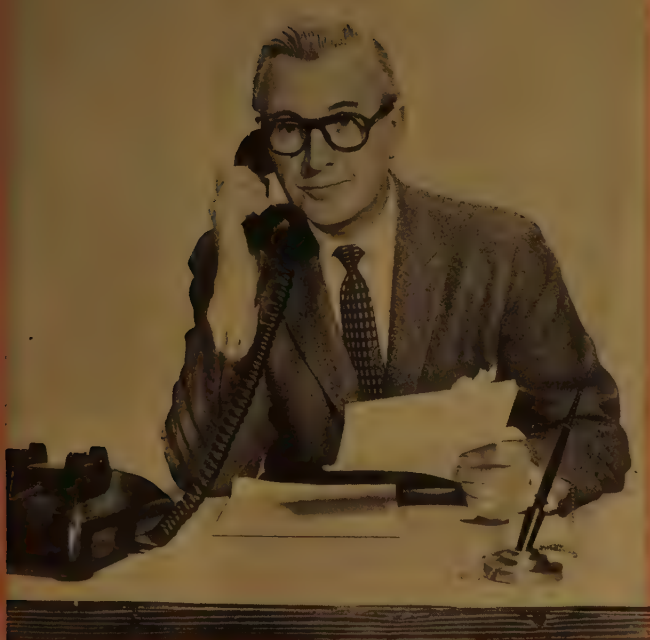
Thus, parishioners also keep the parsonage road a busy one. Unlike the minister and his family, their travel is in the opposite direction. Their path leads from the parish to the parsonage.

Yes, the parsonage road is a two-way street.

The ministry of the minister carries him from his home to wherever he can minister to his congregation. The ministry of the congregation—for surely here is a ministry too—leads to the heart and the home of the pastor. In turn, it gives to him and his family another kind of ministry, one which they sorely need.

It is this other ministry—that of the congregation—which makes the road to the parsonage run in two different directions.

Often members of the church forget or perhaps do not realize that there is a "second" ministry in which they themselves participate as leaders. Called "second" to distinguish it from that of the chosen pastor, and certainly with no intention to lower its importance, this other ministry has a unique nature of its own.



—A. Devaney, Inc.

To paraphrase one of the hit tunes of today's musical stage, ministers and their families can quite reasonably sing, "Everybody's got a minister but us." This is the plaintive lament in many parsonages and whenever preachers and preachers' wives get together and compare notes. It is true that no one in the congregation can perform for the minister what he does for the congregation through his priestly and pastoral duties. Still, there is a definite service (some would call it an obligation) which members of the church who are consecrated disciples render to the ministerial family in their midst.

Just as the minister has a holy charge to preach the gospel and lead his people in the understanding of that gospel that they might join in a redemptive fellowship, so members of the congregation have a similar responsibility to their pastor.

Any minister humble in his work can testify to the ministry of the elders and other churchmen who hold up his arms and support him when otherwise he might break. They give counsel beyond measure. They were there before the pastor came and they will probably be there after he leaves. He cannot serve without their service and he cannot preach the gospel without their Christian lives as day-to-day examples.

However, let us turn back to Mr. Tom.

He would have called himself "just a plain, ordinary church member." And he would have been partly right.

Mr. Tom never held a position on the board of the church. Just the prospect of presiding over the

communion table scared him out of his wits. No one ever thought of him when scouting around for a teacher in the Sunday church school.

Yet Mr. Tom gave to his pastor and his pastor's family a ministry which he could have been proud of if it had ever been called to his attention. Our family depended on Mr. Tom in a way that no other friends of his depended on him. He provided courage, optimism, and faith in the ultimate goodness of human nature. His ministry gave us a perspective that enabled us to compare the religiously fanatic element with the coldly agnostic element and arrive safely at a healthy and true meaning of the Christian and what makes him tick.

The minister found that Mr. Tom was fair in his criticism and sensibly slow to judge. Even more important to the pastor and his family, Mr. Tom's praise could be accepted at face value because he didn't give too much of it. We never suspected him of flattery.

These were some of the secrets of Mr. Tom's ministry. I keep learning more of them as I reflect on his life in that particular church. He was a plain, ordinary man with a spiritually rich and extraordinary ministry.

And to think we might have missed his influence if we had made no attempt to get acquainted with him! Actually, the invitation to dinner had no significance of its own. It served instead as a *tour de force* to bring the ministry of the pastor into juxtaposition with the ministry of a member of his parish.

An impromptu visit in the garden, a telephone call in the middle of the night, a private talk in the study, a vigil beside a sickbed, an encouraging nod at the church door—these too have no real value by themselves in extending this two-way ministry.

It is when such actions are multiplied many times over by loving, sincere Christians, each attempting to minister in his own way, that the pastor's family can feel the impact of one immeasurable force.

Such a force can lift the spirits, make the call to the Christian ministry one of delight and satisfaction, and surely become a powerful instrument in the promotion of the gospel.

With such a force at work it doesn't matter whether the pastor and his family live on an elm-shaded boulevard, in a many-storied apartment house on a noisy highway, or even at the end of a quiet, sandy farm lane.

What does matter is the fact that this road leading to the house your minister calls home is a different sort of road than any other you have traveled. Imaginary though it is, it accomplishes what no real road can ever do.

It creates a mutual ministry.

And all because it is a two-way street. Such a road strengthens and blesses the minister and his family who travel in one direction from the parsonage to the parish, and it strengthens and blesses the parish as it moves toward the parsonage.

What more can you expect from a two-way street?

(See meeting plans on page 26, 27)



ENTERTAINING....

Now that the heirloom quilt and Italian cutwork tablecloth are back in the cedar chest and the fancy guest towels once more replaced by everyday wiping ones, it is a good time to evaluate home entertaining. Most of the women's groups and larger church organizations meet in the church to conduct their business and to hold devotional and study programs. However, committees, circles, or small study groups meet with alternating hostesses in the home.

It is work, sometimes a great deal, to get a home ready for a group. A house may be adequate for family living but if there are small children it is no easy matter to have the house all spick and span. Perhaps at the last minute the little one uses his crayons freely on the floor that has been lately waxed. Even worse, big brother plops into the chair after shoveling coal although he knows very well what it will do to the freshly laundered slipcover.

Suppose it is your turn to have the group. They are all your friends, with maybe small children and redecorating needs, who will not criticize the lack of perfection, yet you want your home as nice as you can make it. Advance planning will help, even though some last-minute happenings may cause some changes. If you have a co-hostess, plan the menu early. Quite often such menus are limited to two or at the most three items. Summer finds a salad or dessert-type dish easy to arrange far in advance. Winter may find a hot dish substituted. My co-hostess and I chose a tuna-noodle dish. The recipe is as follows:

- 1 package wide noodles, cooked and drained
- 1 can tuna fish, flaked
- $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. cream cheese
- 1 can peas
- 1 pimiento
- cracker crumbs

Make a cream sauce from 2 cups milk, 2 tablespoons butter, $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons flour. Add cheese to white sauce. Let melt, add tuna fish—all flaked—then put a layer of noodles, one of tuna, one of white sauce, and then peas and pimiento until pan is filled. Sprinkle with buttered cracker crumbs. Bake 30 to 45 minutes at 375 degrees.

My co-hostess brought her dish already baked and warmed it before serving. Mine was popped into the oven in sufficient time before serving and both dishes seemed equally moist. The two dishes made 24 servings, besides three helpings apiece for two junior-high boys after school. Several members asked for the recipe.

With the hot dish we served rolls, pickles, and spice cake. The cake recipe is a variation of this sour cream cake:

- 1 cup thick sour cream
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs separated
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups cake flour or 1 cup regular
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon soda

Place cream, sugar, and egg yolks in mixing bowl and beat until light and fluffy, add dry ingredients and fold in the whites. Bake 35 minutes at 325°. For the spice cake variation we used $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of chopped nuts, dates, raisins, and grated orange rind. Either buns or nut bread could be the third article. We chose buns.

With the menu plans out of the way we could concentrate on the house. The curtains and slipcovers that needed freshening were put in the wash

CAN BE FUN!

by
Christie
Monson

a week before so they would not crowd the last days, yet be neat and clean. If the children are asked to help get ready for company, they sometimes surprise us with how much they can help. Yet one must make allowances. If the favorite toys which could be moved upstairs for a few days instead of back of the davenport do not get there, it will not matter too much. My child forgot to take the toy farm animals upstairs. "But Mom, I might lose my cow. Someone would find her and butcher her and I wouldn't have any cow," really was not stalling on his part. This seemed a very real threat to him.

When the silver was polished, the trays and extra cups lined up, and last-minute dusting was finished, we were ready for the first knock. It was fun to have an excuse to use the best china, silver, and linen. Some of the guests who came were the same ones who chat over a cup of coffee in the kitchen, but they, too, enjoyed the company set-up. If the hostesses do as many little jobs as they can ahead of time they need not miss out on the devotional part of the meeting or the business.

There is no better place than in the informal setting of the home to reflect the personality of the hostess.

Maybe some suspect that the piece of drapery with the Grandma Moses design covers a crack in the wall, or that the arm protectors cover the threadbare spots on the chair. If they do, they will relax; it is just like home.

Christian women need to share fellowship as well as work and prayer and study. While the pattern of entertaining is fresh in mind, the floors freshly waxed, and the silver is polished, why not invite the church school class, or invite the neighbor who seldom goes out? These, too, will enjoy the hospitality of your home and the contact may lead to greater opportunities for Christian service.

Face Saver

A closet is really a wonderful place

For tactfully saving a hostess's face—

When she looks out to see unexpected guests
come

She can gather up litter, boat, sweater and drum

And, before the last peal of the doorbell has
died,

Open the closet and shove them inside

And be found, cool, and leisurely reading a
book

In a house that deceives with its orderly look.

Then, when her friends praise her for house-
keeping skill

Knowing she has a small Susan and Bill,

She can make her reply with a very straight
face,

"It's really quite easy with good closet space."

—Helen Howland Prommel

I. Father—

A Family Word and Experience

Eugene
F.
Gerlitz

Two meeting plans for parents' classes and discussion groups based on the article "Like a Father," page 6

Purpose of Meeting

To discover what family life, and fatherhood in particular, teaches us about God.

Preparation for Meeting

Ask someone a week in advance to prepare a brief devotional service to open the meeting. (Suggestions for the devotional are given below.) Have a supply of paper and pencils on hand and enough Bibles so that all who do not bring their own may have one to use. Read the article, "Like a Father," page 6, carefully and jot down notes of what you will want to use in the conduct of the meeting. The resource material will help prove helpful, if it is available.

That publicity is best which strikes a responsive cord in the people that you want to attend the meeting. The announcement in the bulletin might raise some pertinent questions, such as "Does God send sickness?" and "Will God help you to find a job?" Invite the readers to discuss the questions by attending the meeting. Special announcements in the adult classes of the church school will be helpful.

Conducting the Meeting

Begin the meeting with the devotional. A good scripture lesson would be the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24). You may wish to point out, before the passage is read, that it would be more accurate to call this the story of the Forgiving Father rather than the Prodigal Son. Hymns which might be used are "O God, Our Help in Ages Past,"¹ "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," and "This Is My Father's World." The prayer should emphasize the relationship of the members of the group to God as their Father.

Pass out paper and pencils to everyone. Ask each person to think about what a good father is, then to make a list of all the attributes of a good father. What is a good father's relationship to his children? How much will he do for them? What are his traits of character and what are some of his actions toward his children? Allow about ten minutes for this.

Now call for a report of the characteristics listed. Write on the chalkboard all that are named. Then

ask the group to select the characteristics which would be true of God as our Father. How do they know this is true? What scriptural support is there for the doctrine of the fatherhood of God? Be prepared to find Scripture passages which teach these attributes of God. You will need to be prepared to give the members of your group specific leads to find the passages. You will find help in the article "Like a Father," and also in a concordance. Have a concordance handy so that passages may be found which come to mind from any of your group.

Point out the implications of your findings for a man's relationship to God. Take each point that has been made about the fatherhood of God and explore the question, "If this is true, what difference should it make in my own life?" You will want to touch on such areas as faith, trust, worry, fear, love, prayer, worship, stewardship, guidance, and church attendance. The concept of fatherhood should affect each one of these in a very definite way. Show that if we fall short of the Christian standard in any one of these we need to re-examine our relationship to God as Father and to practice it in our daily living.

Questions for Discussion

1. Prepare a matching test which you may write on the chalkboard. Ask the group to match the characteristics of fatherhood in the left-hand column with the scripture passages in the right-hand column. Note that there are purposely more passages than characteristics. This exercise will make the members of your group do some personal research which will heighten interest.

Characteristics

Love
Care
Forgiveness
Discipline
Obedience
Guidance
Protection
Training
Gifts

Scripture

Isa. 64:8
James 1:5
Luke 2:49
1 John 3:1
Luke 11:13
Matt. 7:11
Heb. 12:7
John 4:23
Matt. 12:50
Matt. 18:14

(Continued on page 30)

¹Hymns are from *Christian Worship—A Hymnal*, Available from the publishers of this magazine.

II. Father—A Religious Word and Experience

by Eugene F. Gerlitz

Purpose of Meeting

To discover what the fatherhood of God teaches us about family life, particularly about the relationship between parents and children.

Preparation for Meeting

The Sunday before this meeting ask someone to prepare the devotional, suggestions for which are given below. Ask the other members of the group to watch for any clipping from current newspaper news items involving family life in some way. They should watch for both "positive" and "negative" news, both that which reflects a well-adjusted, successful family life and that which reflects failures in family. News about family activities, achievements, and events, as well as news about divorces, juvenile delinquency, and strife should be gathered. Ask your group to bring all their clippings to the next meeting, and to be prepared to comment on them.

Encourage those members who subscribe to *Hearthstone* to read the article "Like a Father" page 6; if there are extra copies available distribute them to other members to read.

Conducting the Meeting

Call for a report on the clippings that are brought to the meeting. If there is danger that none will be brought have a number of newspapers on hand for members to scan for such items. As these news items are reported, write down on the chalkboard the word or phrase which sums up the family excellence or defect reflected in the article. Make two columns, one for the excellences and one for the defects. Invite those who have brought the clippings to comment on them if they wish.

Now add to each column such other common excellences or defects as your group may think of. On the positive side you might wish to include obedience, fellowship, harmony, mutual concern, and sacrifice. On the negative side you could add quarrelsomeness, delinquency, physical violence, divorce, neglect, and distrust.

Examine these two lists. How is the fatherhood of God reflected on the positive side? How would the practice of this truth help to erase the defects on the negative side, in each instance? The fifth commandment should be brought into the discussion. Parents stand to their children in somewhat the same relationship that God stands to man. Discuss the idea that there is a very real parallel and a cause and effect relation between unbelief and violation of

this commandment. Children who have no reverence for God are not apt to honor their parents. Those who are disobedient to God's commands will also be disobedient to their parents' wishes. Is the opposite also true that children who do not honor their parents cannot really revere God?

It is one thing to be a father and quite another to carry out all the functions and responsibilities of a father. One may be a father in a physical relationship and yet fail so completely in the other relationships that he is more of a brute, a tyrant, and an animal than a father. In the fatherhood of God we find what earthly fatherhood should be like. Every parent can profit greatly by studying this doctrine and by emulating God in his fatherly relations to his children.

Close the meeting with the devotional which has been prepared by the person assigned to it. For the Scripture reading, John 14:1-14 could be used. Appropriate hymns would be: "For the Beauty of the Earth,"¹ "O Happy Home, Where Thou Art Loved the Dearest," and "O Worship the King." To close, pray the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Questions for Discussion

1. What effect does religion have on the relationships of parents to children? How will parents react with a better understanding of the fatherhood of God? What difference will it make in the treatment of their children? How will it affect the conduct of children when their parents treat them as God treats us?

2. What does it mean to "honor father and mother"? Why is this commandment important enough to be included in the Decalogue?

3. What relationship is there between God as the Father of Jesus Christ, and God as the Father of all Christians? How does that relate us to Christ? Is the fatherhood of God to Christ and to us exactly the same in all respects?

Resource Material

How Christian Parents Face Family Problems, J. C. Wynn. Westminster Press, 1955. \$2.50.

Your Home Can Be Christian, Donald M. Maynard. Abingdon Press, 1952. Cloth, \$2; paper, \$1.

Guideposts to Creative Family Worship, Anna Laura Gebhard and Edward W. Gebhard. Abingdon Press, 1953. \$2.50.

¹Hymns are from *Christian Worship—A Hymnal*. Available from the publishers of this magazine.

1. Road to the Parish

Alpha
Mell
Stuart

1. Statement of Purpose

This study guide deals with one side of the problem explained in the article, "Two-way Road to the Parsonage," page 20. Its twin follows.

The purpose of this guide is to make suggestions for studying the role of the pastor as he goes about his parish duties, ministering to the families of the congregation.

2. Suggestions for the Leader

First, accept your assignment with a prayerful effort to treat it fairly and in good taste. You will recognize that it will be up to you to steer this meeting and its sensitive subject matter with tact and sincerity.

You will need a fervent hope that those who help you and those who just sit and do not participate vocally will leave the meeting with a greater conception of your minister's pastoral role.

A large order, yes, but you are handling a subject that used to be hush-hush and suited more to whispers than an open forum. You will want to approach this meeting in a non-critical spirit and somehow convey to the group this same attitude. It will be contagious.

Second, discuss the purpose of this meeting with your minister and tell him what you are trying to do. Follow his suggestions.

Third, get your resource materials together long before the scheduled meeting.

Fourth, decide the form which you want the group to use, one which you think will most effectively

carry your purpose to a satisfactory ending. You might use, for example, a question and discussion period, a panel program, or a lecture and discussion type program.

Fifth, construct your program and talk personally with those who will take part. A panel program needs a skeleton rehearsal. Other types need advance preparation also.

Sixth, get to the meeting place early and set your stage if it is no more than arranging chairs and setting up a chalkboard. Encourage others on the program to do the same. Nothing defeats a program more than a huffing-and-puffing leader arriving late.

3. Conducting the Meeting

Perhaps by the time you read this far you have already decided the form of your meeting. Perhaps you are one of the talented few who can invent a new type of program that is creative, interesting, and worthwhile.

If not, you are not alone, so take heart.

You still don't have to resign yourself to the weary "get up and read a paragraph" kind of meeting. Instead, try a combination of methods that have been successful in your church.

A panel discussion limited to fifteen minutes and followed by five-minute talk-it-over sessions has the advantage of using both the leaders and the followers. A shy person will speak up in a talk-it-over session but refuse to sit at a panel table.

A question-and-answer type of meeting also has its advantages in that several persons will contribute and help you keep moving at a brisk pace. This period should also be followed by talk-it-overs and a final short report made to the whole group.

By all means, do not conduct the meeting with your minister as the central participant, answering questions or lecturing on his pastoral work. He will help best as a resource person in your preparation. Reread your purpose and hew to it. Your pastor knows his role; you want the ones at your meeting to know it.

4. Resources

There are many books on the nature and function of the pastoral ministry. Usually, each minister has his own favorite authors and you should ask yours to recommend one or two for your own reading before the meeting.

You can also get help from denominational pamphlets and other publications. Look in your church catalog for lists.

Draw up an outline of the areas in which your pastor serves his parish and their families. This will include the ministry to the sick and bereaved, to the mentally ill, to the jails, to the unchurched, to the rich, to the needy, different kinds of counseling (personal, courtship, marriage, family) and other areas.

This outline will be a resource for you and your helpers to be sure you cover all the pastoral duties and their features. Here again your minister can advise and add his information.

2. Road to the Parsonage

Alpha
Mell
Stuart

1. Statement of Purpose

This meeting plan is designed to give the counterpart to the foregoing study guide, "Road to the Parish." Likewise, it also uses as its basis the article, "Two-way Road to the Parsonage" page 20.

Its purpose is exactly the opposite of the first meeting's purpose. It should explain and attempt to enrich the ministry of the congregation's families to their pastor and his family.

The question, "What is our role as ministers to our minister and his family?" should be raised and answered.

2. Suggestions for the Leader

Read over the first study guide, "Road to the Parish," and sift out what is pertaining to this side of the problem and use it for your benefit. This is particularly true of sections 2 and 3.

Here again you have a task that should be a prayerful one. It too has a sensitive subject—that of personal service as part of the Christian community at work in the local church.

You are going to have to deal with many ideas, some of value, some not, and as diversified as there are persons in the meeting. Get yourself ready to handle such a situation. Prepare yourself well (see resources) and resolve to stick to the subject (ministering to our pastor) and disregard others that crop up.

Also, talk to your minister and ask him for his interpretation of a congregation's ministry. Is there

biblical foundation for such a ministry? How does such a ministry take shape and express itself? What are some of its good points? How can it be mistreated? What are its immediate benefits? Its delayed benefits?

The above questions should be answered in your own mind, and thoroughly, before you plan any further.

3. Conducting the Meeting

Section 3 of the preceding study guide has ideas you might use.

Especially in this meeting your pastor and his wife should be innocent bystanders. They will prefer to keep quiet, perhaps not attend at all. Your pastor served you well when he helped you in advance so that you could carry out your purpose without embarrassment.

4. Resources

Read the letters of Paul to the Christian churches at Corinth, Ephesus, and Rome. Study and take notes on them for background reading and for subjects to be discussed at the meeting.

You can also prepare a worship program with selected readings from these letters of Scripture.

Make an outline to duplicate the outline mentioned in the first study guide. Use as headings several areas of ministry which Paul writes about in the above letters. You might title this, "Turn About Is Fair Play," print it on poster paper, and draw stick people or paste pictures to illustrate.

Make Twelfth-Night Christmas Card Night

Edna
LaMoore
Waldo

CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE so beautiful and so varied that they deserve more than the hasty attention they usually get in the holiday rush. So why not set aside Twelfth-night for a "last look"—and make a big family gala of it?

You know what usually happens—cards sit around, waiting until you have time to make out next year's list. You keep saying, "I must do something about those cards" until you may just chuck them all out. But they could play a double role, launching a fine family tradition.

So plan ahead. When you are scheduling other festivities, make plans for a quiet, relaxed time together, even if others are coming in later. If this is also tree-untrimming-time, include a group reading of the cards before that hurly-burly begins.

Have someone ready to note changes of address and to compile the new list. But first of all, look for messages you may have missed before. Many of the cards will inspire post-holiday letters. Talk a little about the distant friends and relatives from whom the missives have come, so that the children will feel the relationship.

Then comes the BIG moment when you sort the cards by subject matter, when you distribute them according to individual interests or hobbies, when you group them for later school or church work. There will be exquisite colored reproductions of art works, perhaps a series of Madonnas. There will be etchings of world-famous churches and cathedrals. Perhaps a whole series of Dickens characters or English village and coaching scenes; birds and animals; covered bridges; "primitives" a la Grandma Moses.

(Continued on page 30)

The Anatomy of Family Life

(Continued from page 3)

back as good as she received. The quarrel went from bad to worse till suddenly, at the breaking point, when we were about to come to blows, we stopped short and, struck by the absurdity of it all, dissolved into laughter and fell into each other's arms. Harmony restored, we took the streetcar, rode ten miles down the valley, ate a richly satisfying supper of fish and chips from a paper bag, then went to the tin-roofed cinema to see Charlie Chaplin in *The Kid*. What might have been a tragic rupture ended instead in a joyful reconciliation, all because two young people had sense enough to see humor in an overripe egg.

Good-natured tolerance does much to make the wheels of family life turn smoothly and, especially as one grows older, practicing the art of being nice to one another works wonders. If your husband begins to lose his hair, to puff slightly as he goes upstairs, do not comment on these brutal symptoms of the passage of years. If your husbands notice that your wife shows signs of putting on weight, tell her emphatically that in her plumpness she is more attractive than when first you fell in love with her. When your children are noisy and untidy, come to the table without washing their hands, leave footmarks on the newly polished floor; try to correct them without losing your temper or indulging in the abuse known as bawling them out. A little generosity, some slight encouragement, tenderness, and good will can be more effective than a hundred applications of the rod.

Most powerful of all, however, is the need for some manifestation of religious spirit. Doubtless we have come a long way since those days when the Bible was read aloud in every home. Perhaps the picture of the child saying his prayers at his mother's knee is now viewed by many as a sentimental chromo of the past. Unless we pay some regard to spiritual values in the home the family will inevitably flounder.

I once went on a fishing holiday in the west of Ireland. Every evening as I returned from the river, I would see the families of the tiny village gather in their whitewashed turf-roofed cottages. There in the dim interior, lit only by the smoldering peat fire, the families—the father back from his day's work in the fields, the mother in her homespun shawl, the brood of dark-eyed sturdy barefoot children—would repeat their rosary in unison. It is a far cry from the wilds of Connemara to the sidewalks of New York. Yet if that reverent whisper, if prayer of any kind re-echoed in the hearts of more people here today, there would be less disaffection, disappointment, and disillusionment in family life and fewer broken homes.

I speak feelingly of the family from an experience that goes back twenty-five years, a span that has compassed all the ingredients which make up the great adventure of family life—health and sickness, partings and reunions, hopes, anxieties, triumphs, fears, delight, and despair. My wife and I have taken a long safari into the unknown, which seems, nevertheless, to have passed as swiftly, as smoothly as a short spring day. We have known tragedy but comedy has not been lacking either. There have been moments when I would cheerfully have strangled my wife and massacred my children, moments also when they, on their side, would gladly have torn me limb from limb. Yet although at times the going has been difficult, the chief joys of my life have come from my family, the greatest happiness I now look forward to is centered on it.

It is natural that it should be so. From the beginning of time man's basic desire has been to take to himself a mate, to raise children, to protect them from dangers threatened by the outside world. The coming of Christianity and the living example of the Holy Family served to hallow and dignify this primal impulse. Thereafter throughout the centuries, the family has taken foremost place in safeguarding morality and in the evolution of human culture.

The family with its moral and spiritual principles is essential to us, the backbone of our national strength. Wherever the family flourishes in a state of vigor and unity there will be found a strong and sound society. In this era of fear and restlessness, when man is ringed by hostile forces and feels isolated and in the dark, the family is his main, his ultimate hope—his hope for self-preservation, for maintaining human dignity, religion, and the decencies of life.



"I'm sure my mom won't want any, 'cause she's going downtown this afternoon to buy some."

Happy New Year

(Continued from page 14)

"Well," Uncle Bob cast a sideways glance at Chuck, "this particular umbrella seller had complained all summer long because it hadn't rained. Of course, he had parasols to keep off the sun, and he sold lots and lots of them on hot days, but still he was unhappy because no one ever bought an umbrella."

A smile was trying hard to cover up the frown on Chuck's face as he watched Ted and Alice throw snowballs at the snowman's hat.

"So," went on Uncle Bob, "one day it did rain. In fact, it really poured, and everyone ran into the umbrella store and bought a big, black umbrella. That evening when the umbrella seller was ready to close up a customer said to him, 'You must really be happy tonight since you have sold so many umbrellas today.' But the umbrella merchant didn't even smile. 'I don't know why I would be happy,' he grumbled. 'I never sold a single sun parasol all day!'"

Chuck tried hard to cover up his giggle with a cough.

"Lots of people are like the umbrella merchant," said Uncle Bob. "They want it to rain and snow on one side of the street and to be nice and sunny on the other side. Since they can't have both, they grumble about either one."

Chuck's face was red, but he didn't say a word.

"Seems like these New Year's Days sure roll around in a hurry. By the way, have you made any New Year resolutions?" asked Uncle Bob in an offhand way.

"I hadn't even thought about making resolutions," Chuck grinned sheepishly, "but it might be a good idea to try and get along with the weather. Do you think I'm too old to play with a sled?" Chuck's eyes looked straight into Uncle Bob's.

"I should say you were exactly the right age," Uncle Bob's voice was serious. "Always remember, Chuck, that no one should ever grow too old to enjoy fun. Just so long as it is good clean fun that doesn't hurt the individual or anyone else, don't hesitate to enjoy it. Come to think about it, that's a good resolution for me to make. I haven't had a good snowball fight in years. Grab your coat, overshoes, cap and mittens and—let's go. Happy New Year," boomed Uncle Bob.

"Happy New Year," echoed Chuck.



family Counselor

How can parents teach little children that God is like a loving Father?

Q HOW CAN ONE TEACH to little children the concept of “a loving Father who keeps watch over every living thing” without instilling a set of anthropomorphic ideas that will be thrown aside in their later thinking? In other words, how can we teach a God who cares without teaching a God who is too concerned with little personal details?

A INASMUCH as children think in concrete rather than in abstract terms it is inevitable that when they hear of “a loving Father who keeps watch over every living thing,” they will tend to develop anthropomorphic ideas of God. To be sure their ideas of God will probably be rather hazy—or they will think of him in terms of a mental image that corresponds to someone they know or a picture they have seen. I would not be too disturbed about this, if I were you, or feel that I must correct a child’s ideas whenever he talks about God in anthropomorphic terms.

At the same time—and I think

this is important—I would not, either as a parent or as a teacher, tell a child that God is just a big man or that he has a body similar to our own. And I would expect that as the child gets older he will gradually substitute a more spiritual concept of God for the anthropomorphic one he has had.

It is important, of course, that you share with your children your own ideas of God. If you do not feel that God is concerned about the personal details of one’s life, of course you will not encourage your children to talk to him in their prayers about their own intimate concerns.

On the other hand, if you feel that God is concerned about everything that concerns us and that he wants us to feel free to talk with him about any of these interests or problems, then you will encourage children to share with God their

interests and aspirations. Let me hasten to add, however, that this does not mean that you will teach them that God intervenes in the everyday events of life, or that they can rely upon him to do that which they are perfectly capable of doing themselves. Neither does it mean that you will permit them to think of God as a “celestial Santa Claus.” Rather you will help your children discover the laws of the universe—God’s laws—and impress upon them the fact that God expects them to use their own intelligence in facing the problems of life. But surely one can talk with God about the so-called “little things of life” without thereby assuming that God will spend his time settling them for us. This type of prayer has sometimes been referred to as the “prayer of fellowship” in contrast to the “prayer of petition.”

Donald M. Maynard

Head of Department of Religious Education,
Boston University, School of Theology.

I. Father—

A Family Word and Experience

(Continued from page 24)

2. How will a deficient family life affect a child's conception of God? How can this be corrected? Will this realization help parents to determine that their family relationships will be right ones?

3. Does the concept of fatherhood give a true picture of God to all children? Is it apt to give a wrong conception of God where the father in the home is a delinquent father? What can be done for children when this is the case?

Resource Material

Making Religion Real, Nels F. S. Ferré. (Especially Chapter V, "Making Religion Real Through the Family.") Harper & Bros., 1955, cloth \$2, paper \$1.

The Christian Faith, David H. C. Read. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1956, \$1.95.

The Faith of Our Children, Mary Alice Jones. Abingdon Press, 1943. \$1.50.

Make Twelfth-Night Christmas Card Night

(Continued from page 27)

You will linger longest, of course, on the handmade cards, the wood cuts, the family pictures or the mimeographed family letters and diaries. What ideas they will suggest for your own cards next year!

When you have finished, especially if you don't have young children of your own, locate a good place where the cards can be used. Many mission schools and churches at home and abroad welcome all they can get. If your church group has no suggestions, you may find that a columnist in the nearest city newspaper is listing willing recipients.

Above all, take time to enjoy your cards—and PASS THEM ON!

Wilbur



Like a Father

(Continued from page 7)

evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him?" (Matt. 7:11). The care of our Father in heaven is so superior that we can banish every worry and every fear from our hearts.

The father also endeavors to protect his children. He guards them from enemies, from harmful associations, from dangerous activities. God even cares for the sparrows in the air; how much more will he care for his own children? (Matt. 10:29).

The father cares for his children by guiding and advising them. He teaches them his own wisdom; he helps them to make important decisions but avoids making the decisions for them. He guides his children in fashioning a wholesome, adequate, true philosophy of life. All this our heavenly Father does for his children. Yet, he leaves them free to make their own choices and decisions.

A Loving Discipline

Children need to be disciplined for their own good. They need to be corrected, deprived of privileges in order to impress them with the harmful consequences of wrong-doing, rebuked to be taught right from wrong. Our heavenly Father chastens his children too. He disciplines them just because he loves them so much,

"For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives"

"It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not his sons" (Heb. 12:6-8).

Wise children will appreciate and learn from the discipline of their Father.

Discipline involves obedience. A loving father will demand obedience from his children, knowing that the child who never learns obedience is in danger of destroying himself in licentious living. Sometimes the father can explain to a child in a way meaningful to him, the reasons for obedience; sometimes the father must require an unquestioning obedience of faith in himself until the child is old enough to understand. So our heavenly Father must sometimes ask his children to trust and obey, even if they cannot understand immediately.

(See Meeting Plans on Pages 24, 25)

Double Talk

He said he liked variety—

She catered to his whim—

She cooked him new and different things

And served them up to him

But soon learned what he really meant,

What left him feeling fine,

Was any sweet or starchy food

That fattened his waistline.

—Helen Howland Prommel

Biblegram Solution

(Biblegram on page 11)

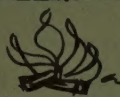
"SOLUTION: "Blessed is he who considers the poor! The LORD delivers him in the day of trouble; the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land . . ." (Ps. 41:1-2).

The Words

A	Levee	L	Broom
B	Echoed	M	Limb
C	Sweet	N	Shorts
D	Fleece	O	Phone
E	Hive	P	Shirts
F	Shell	Q	Limit
G	Stitch	R	Halibut
H	Shield	S	Ponds
I	Honey	T	Dearest
J	Hiked	U	Landed
K	Aladdin	V	Errs

W Droop

Books for the Hearthside



For Children

A most attractive book of verses for children is titled from the first poem, **I Rode the Black Horse Far Away**, by Ivy O. Eastwick (Abingdon Press, 1960, 63 pages, \$2). The imaginative poems are about the things children love best and are typical of what children think about. Those who love poetry, and those who think they do not, will enjoy and cherish this book.

Boys and girls from 9 to 12 will enjoy **Landi of Terrebonne Bayou**, by Ella Mae Charlton (Broadman Press, 1960, 170 pages, \$2.75). This is an interesting story of an Indian family in southern Louisiana, and particularly of Landi, who was afraid of everything. How she helped Papa get his own boat, how she conquered her fears, how she won friends, make an exciting story.

A fast-moving story for boys and girls seven to ten is **The Chili Pepper Children**, by Oren Arnold (Broadman Press, 1960, 114 pages, \$2.50). This is about a Mexican family that raised chili peppers and sold them for a living. When the family learned about the fiesta, they used their imagination to enter a float. Every member of the family had a good time, and when the day was over they started home. How the news reached them that they had won first prize and how they planned to use the money make the kind of climax that children enjoy.

A new book about Jesus, for children three to six, is **Jesus Goes to the Synagogue**, by Helen Brown (Abingdon Press, 1960, unpagged, \$1.25). This simple story tells of the first time Jesus goes to the synagogue and sits with his father and the other men in the congregation. All that happened at that time—the reciting of the Shema, the prayers, the various scripture readings, and Rabbi Ezra's explanations—will help young children to a deeper

appreciation of how people worshiped in Jesus' day. It also will help them to see that people today worship in much the same way.

For Young People

Children eight to twelve will become acquainted with migrant family life in **White Harvest** by Lela and Rufus Waltrip (Longmans, Green and Co., 1960, 118 pages, illustrated, \$2.95). Susan Mathis and Mark, her younger brother, compete in cotton picking. Mark is sure that he has picked more cotton than Susan. Susan is just as sure that he hasn't. The scales settle the score with Susan having a five-pound advantage. She parot-ed, "Girls are often better cotton pickers than boys." Mr. Johnson, the landlord, had said this often. Mark, unable to prove otherwise, went about his business of emptying the sacks—at least he could excel where muscles were involved.

The stormy, but warm, adventures of the Mathis family makes for an interesting and informative story of migrants.

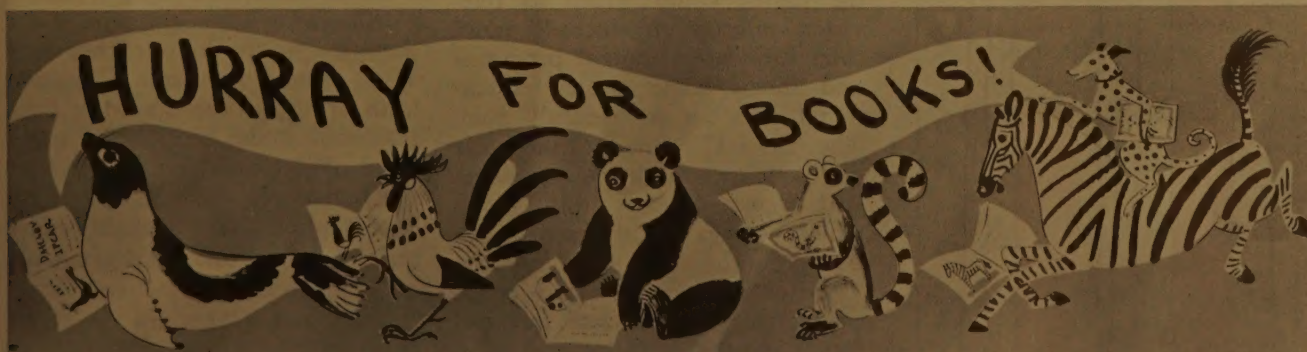
Through life on the farm in the 1920's, the book **Half a Team** (Longmans, Green and Co., Inc., 1960, 184 pages, \$2.95) by Maine Drury captures the daily experiences of a young teenager, Cindy Martin. Cindy's mother is in the hospital, and her brother and sister are staying with Grandma and Grandpa Ellsworth. This meant that running the farm is Cindy and her dad's responsibility. With her mother gone, the farm becomes a different place. Everything seems to go wrong and worst of all is the lack of fun and gaiety. However, Cindy does find consolation in her team of white horses: Tom the mischievous one and Sade blind from birth. Early one morning, squawking hens awaken Cindy. Thinking a fox or weasel might be after the

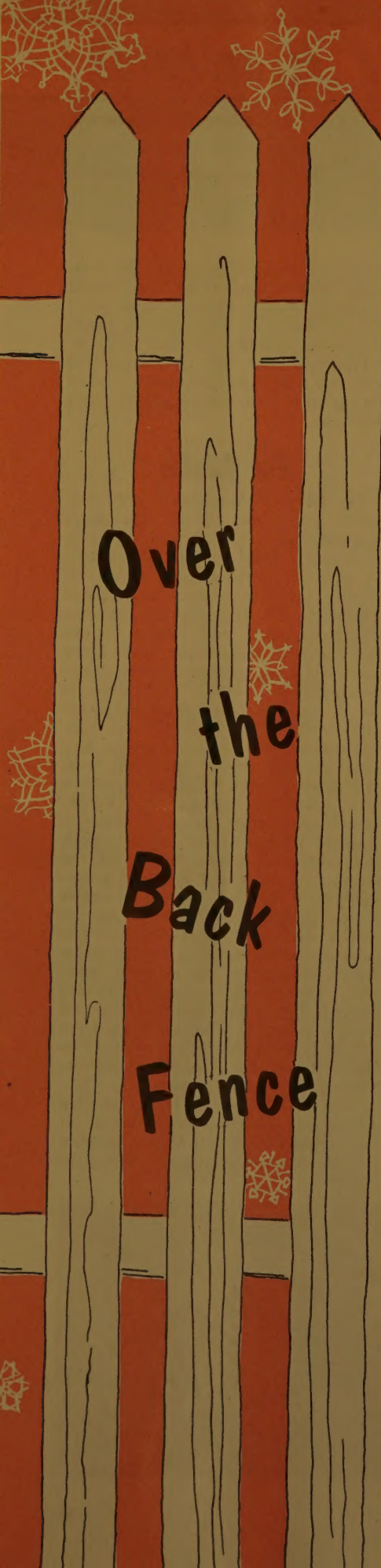
chickens; Cindy hastens to the hen-house only to find Tom's head poked helplessly in the small door. Too proud to lower his head and ready to panic, Tom presents quite a problem to Cindy.

Young readers who are acquainted with the trials and pleasures of growing up on a farm will especially enjoy this book.

For Adults

The Divorce Handbook (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1960, \$3.95, 256 pages including appendix of state by state Directory of Lawyer Referral Services, Grounds for Separation, Grounds for Divorce, Grounds for Annulment, Legal Residence Requirements for Divorce and Remarriage, and subject Index) by Florence Haussamen and Mary Anne Guitar is planned to help clarify the mystifying picture of divorce in the U. S. For the countless thousands who contemplate divorce, who seek information, who need counsel on their marriage and their future this book will prove helpful. Family counselors have voiced a concern that people should know more about the implications of divorce—legal, psychological, and otherwise—before they decide to divorce. Couples need help and understanding in working through all angles of the problem so that they can be spared needless pain and distress. "The purpose of this book is not to make divorce easier but to make it more easily understood." A listing of the contents bears this intention out and is as follows: 1) You and Your Lawyer; 2) Divorce Counseling; 3) Do You Have Grounds for Divorce? 4) How to Stop a Divorce—Defenses; 5) Substitutes for Divorce; 6) The Separation Agreement; 7) Migratory Divorce; 8) Getting the Divorce; 9) Money Matters; 10) About the Children; 11) After the Divorce.





Over the Back Fence

Facing the New Year

Here we are with another year on our hands! It seems only a very short time ago that we were greeting 1960. Looking ahead, a year seems like a rather long period of time. Looking back, most of us catch ourselves saying, "Whatever became of the old year; where did the time go anyway?" The only answer is an old cliché, first expressed in an ancient language, *tempus fugit*.

What is your family going to do with 1961? No, we are not asking you what resolutions you are going to make. We may be wrong but it seems that resolution-making has rather gone out of orbit—dropped back into the friction-filled atmosphere of hard reality and disintegrated.

If not resolutions then why not try goals? Would it be helpful to get your family together for a discussion on a topic something like this: "What goals shall we set for our family for 1961?" What are some things you would like to accomplish as a family? It may surprise you what values may come from such a consideration. Not only could some definite plans be developed for reaching such goals, such a procedure may be a means of drawing the family circle a little closer together.

Goals could be set in four categories, such as, physical, mental, social, and spiritual. For example, deciding on some improvement or change in the house which could be a family project would fall in the "physical" category. Perhaps the family could widen its television interests to include more than just entertainment programs and follow some clearly educational ones for a "mental" goal. The "social" aim for the year might be to cultivate a friendship with some other family group which belongs to a different racial background. The goal in the "spiritual" category could be to experiment with different forms of family worship in order to develop

a form which would become more helpful to your own family.

Like Abraham, we enter the new year not knowing exactly where we are going. If we set a few goals at the start, perhaps we will not wander quite so aimlessly.

Does Religion Influence Family Safety

Probably no one knows the answer to that question. It also is fair to say that religion should influence family safety in one way or another. However, we know that no religious faith, not even Christianity, can guarantee its followers absolute safety from injury, trouble, inconvenience, hardship, sickness, or death.

The National Safety Council, chiefly known for its predictions on traffic death over holiday weekends, is giving attention to the question that heads this editorial. At the 48th National Safety Congress held October 17-21 in Chicago representatives from the major religious groups studied this problem under the direction of Arthur B. Langlie, president of McCall Corp., of New York City, former governor of Washington, and chairman of the National Safety Council's National Committee of Religious Leaders for Safety.

This is written nearly two months before that meeting was held so no findings are yet available. It will be *Hearthstone's* desire to bring this information to its readers when it can be secured.

In the meantime this is a matter worth giving some thought to by parents' groups in our churches. What forces can our Christian faith bring to bear upon our lives that will make our homes more safe? We should remember that our homes are much less safe than they ought to be. Probably more serious, tragic, and fatal accidents occur there than anywhere else.

What can Christians do about that?

Poetry Page

It's All Comparative

A package of groceries, of laundry a bag,
And heavy the burden I bear,
But there is one object I carry each day
Of whose heaviness I'm unaware:
Though its weight is as much as the wash or the food,
Love lightens the load, and so maybe
It isn't too puzzling to guess what it is—
That's right! It's my own, precious baby!

—Ina S. Stovall

Sew-sigh-ety

A seam seems so simple, to people who know
But I do not find it so easy to sew
I'm better at basting a roast, than a hem,
While gussets and plackets require stratagem.
In my hands, a needle's a dangerous thing
A pin is a weapon meant only to sting.
So sew—you who must—but don't wish on me
Such undesirable sew-ciety!

—Ida M. Pardue

City Home

I live in the rear of a tall brown house,
With no view at all of the sky,
And only the sound of traffic at night
Tells me of busy streets close by.
The sun is a stranger in Winter here,
Only a glow, a distant gleam
Caught for an hour in a window up high,
Sending to me a small, stray beam.
The silver moon and the stars that drift by
Look down on this alley below,
A small city canyon walled in by bricks
Of buildings that stand row on row.
The song of a bird, the sight of a tree
Spreading its branches far and wide,
These things I can never find here—but oh,
There's the beauty of home . . . inside!

—Catherine E. Berry

Ask Me

Do ask me now all you would care to know
of my own youth, of your grandparents' days,
of my upbringing and their rules and ways,
their passing, all I had to undergo.
Although absorbed in your own life, do try
to learn of mine. Now it is not too late,
but no one knows when fate might separate
our roads, or break the fragile earthly tie.
In spite of daily task and rush, do spare
some time for Mother, who would love to share
with you her past, the feeling of her heart
so that when time will come for us to part
no late regret would sting your future day,
for you will know all I had longed to say.

—Elizabeth Antonova

Laughter in the Bible, by Gary Webster. Defining laughter in both its negative and positive aspects, this anthology of biblical references analyzes amusement, mirth, delight, satire, sarcasm, scorn, wit, irony and joy. 10L432, \$3.00.

The Fool of God, by Louis Cochran. The life of Alexander Campbell is told here as a work of fiction but in its essentials this is a factual book. The novel does not presume to be a study of Campbell's religious thinking; it is, rather, a portrait of a man who embraced all men as brothers. 10F396, cloth, \$4.95; 10F451, paper (illustrated), \$1.95.

She-Manners, by Robert H. Loeb, Jr. The teen-girl's book of etiquette, this is an inside-out approach: the inward assurance and attitude toward others that make the teen-girl lovable. Here are brief, solid steps to essential etiquette. Illustrated. 10S704, \$3.50.

He-Manners, by Robert H. Loeb, Jr. "Sound attitudes which base good conduct on human understanding, freedom from prejudice, and respect for other people." — *ALA Booklist*. This is Mr. Loeb's light-hearted serious etiquette book for teen boys. Illustrated. 10H461, \$2.95.

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